



SRI Alumni Association

April 2012 Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN TOM ANYOS



Tom Anyos

Changing of the Guard

Wow! What a hard act to follow!

After years of leading the Alumni Association, Boyd has decided to step back and (only partially) retire from the chairmanship. He leaves a legacy of a well-run, fiscally sound organization with a dedicated crew in the Steering Committee. We all thank him for his past efforts and look forward to his new role on our Internet Committee.

This year, the Alumni Association is celebrating its 15-year anniversary. Be sure you don't miss our Reunion later this fall so you can help us celebrate! Until then, plan to attend the Spring Fling. We will revisit the Computer History Museum with special emphasis on viewing the exhibits donated by SRI over the years.

We know that the "Status of SRI" from Curt's all-hands meeting will be of interest as SRI ended 2011 with a record performance. Of significant interest to all of us was "Siri," which gives the iPhone 4S interactive voice recognition capabilities never available for the price in the open market. A major 10-year, \$100 million study has been awarded to SRI's Biosciences group to do preclinical studies of drugs to get them into clinical trials—drugs that may successfully treat anthrax, dengue fever, HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis, among other diseases. This is just the tip of the iceberg with ongoing research in robotics, alternate fuels, education, and new training methods. SRI is fast becoming, if it isn't already, the preeminent provider of advanced technologies worldwide!

Do you still smoke? SRI is pleased to announce that Sean David, Director of SRI's Translational Medicine Program, has been honored for accomplishments in family medicine and specifically for his work on smoking cessation by being selected as Puffer/American Board of Family Medicine/Institute of Medicine Fellow.

We also feature the announcement of Dr. David Liddle's joining the SRI Board of Directors. In future issues, we will acquaint you with the other members of the Board of Directors, an impressive group of folks who help lead SRI into future growth and success.

This issue of our newsletter has a definite international flavor, with short articles by Peter Weissuhm and Peter Miles and an announcement of an encore concert by Gia Campari. It's always a pleasure to get news and comments from our SRI alumni around the world.

In addition, you'll want to read articles by Phil Green (Intuitive Surgical), Walter Jaye (Chasing the ECHO), and Josh Abend (Innovation—How the Magic Box Was Opened). You might also want to check out SRI on LinkedIn and look for the Alumni Association's page. We encourage you to post your thoughts and comments to make this site more interactive and interesting.

Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically? We can save a small forest along with ever-increasing mailing costs. Let us know your thoughts and preferences at steering-committee-alumni@sri.com.

The Spring Fling is May 17, 2012, at the Computer History Museum. See announcement on page 11. The flyer for this event is enclosed with this mailing.

MESSAGE FROM PAST CHAIRMAN BOYD FAIR

Some Changes on the SRI Alumni Association Steering Committee



Boyd Fair

Effective January 2012, Tom Anyos agreed to become chairman of the Steering Committee. Tom has served the Alumni Association in several capacities over many years and is well suited to assume the committee leadership role. I am sure that he will bring fresh ideas and renewed energy to the group. Please join me in thanking Tom and wishing him well in his new endeavor.

Several other committee leadership changes have also recently occurred. Replacing Tom on the Events Committee will be Dave Harvey, assisted by Kay Clarke. Both Dave and Kaye are well networked in the Bay Area and have some very interesting ideas for possible future events. After many years of running the Membership Committee by herself, Joyce Berry will get some much-needed help from Carolyn Terrill, who has agreed to be co-chair of the committee. Having worked in SRI's accounting offices, Carolyn is well suited to help Joyce maintain the membership database and respond to membership issues. Augustina Biosic will also be on the Membership Committee with Joyce and Carolyn and will concentrate on learning how to use the membership database system.

The Hall of Fame Committee, which has lacked a leader for a couple of years, will be reconstituted by Elizabeth "Jake" Feinler. Jake has several fresh ideas about how we might identify and select future Hall of Fame candidates. Linda Hawke-Gerrans will continue to be on the Communications Committee with Mimi Campbell and Klaus Krause. Linda contributes vast document organization, preparation, and

publication expertise to the group. She will also assist the Internet Committee in preparing the items to be posted on the Alumni Association's Web pages. I will join Russ Dewey on the Internet Committee, working on the migration of the alumni Web pages and membership database to the new SRI system scheduled to come online in May. The new system will offer many new user-interactive capabilities that Russ and I hope to tap into in the future.

We have also added four new Regional Liaison contacts, for the United Kingdom; Japan; the U.S. Pacific Northwest; and Washington, DC. The liaisons will be David Gibby for the UK, Masahide Tashiro for Japan, and Doug Lee for the Pacific Northwest. We are seeking a person to serve as the WDC liaison. Any volunteers?

The Archive and Finance Committees remain unchanged under the leadership of Don Nielson and Pete Valenti. Don and Pete are cornerstones of the association and indispensable members of the Steering Committee. Marlyn Johnson will continue as the committee's secretary, documenting our monthly meetings and assisting Tom in his duties as necessary. Murray Baron and Bob Schwaar will continue as members at large, providing corporate knowledge and contributing ideas on various issues that come up during meetings.

I thank everyone who has helped me with duties during my years in the "big chair." I have enjoyed the experience immensely, but it is time for new leadership, fresh ideas, and renewed energy. I am sure the new committee leadership will keep the Alumni Association a viable, strong, and interesting organization that current alumni members will continue to enjoy and new alumni will want to join.



CLARIFICATION ABOUT SWISS LAW

In "My SRI Years" in the December 2011 newsletter, Jim Selover wrote that his officemate Paul Erdman had been confined in Swiss prison for just under a year and was never tried. Mr. Erdman had implied to Mr. Selover that he had been "assumed guilty until proven innocent."

SRI alumnus Joe Rudzinski of Gryon, Switzerland, wrote to clarify that under the Swiss penal code, "a person is presumed innocent if not sentenced by a tribunal."

We regret the confusion.

Highlights of February All-Hands Meeting

At an all-hands meeting in early February 2012, the staff heard the good news that despite the difficult economic climate and increased competition, SRI ended 2011 with record performance. “The world needs what we provide,” said CEO Curt Carlson, citing SRI’s capabilities in economic development, innovation, and R&D.

International Reputation

Noteworthy in 2011 was SRI’s success in growing its reputation worldwide. Siri was a major contributor to this. The sensation it caused when incorporated into the iPhone 4S spawned numerous articles about SRI, Siri, and the CALO project (the SRI project that was the foundation for Siri)—and even a Dilbert cartoon about Siri’s voice recognition.

SRI gained international recognition in other areas, too. In addition to the radar dishes in Palo Alto and Sondrestrom, Greenland, SRI last year won the contract to operate the Arecibo, Puerto Rico, radio telescope, the biggest and most sensitive in the world. From SRI’s Advanced Modular Incoherent Scatter Radar (AMISR) facilities in Alaska and Canada, scientists and students have been studying changes in the Earth’s upper atmosphere. A new AMISR research facility in Argentina will enable researchers to measure the energy balance between both poles and contribute to our understanding of climate change.

In education, SRI researchers developed a way to teach algebra by using multiple representations and real-time feedback via computer. Its effectiveness had been proven in schools in Texas. Last year, the system was tested among 490 students in or near London, England, and the results were equally impressive.

SRI was mentioned in two popular books as well. In *That Used to Be Us*, Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum referred to SRI as an “innovation factory for governments and companies on topics ranging from education to clean energy to homeland security.” Mark Bowden described the battle against the Conficker malicious software in *Worm* and devoted the first chapter to Phil Porras’s systems security

research. Bowden characterized SRI as “a place where ideas become reality.”

Solving Problems of Importance

Curt described several projects that exemplify SRI’s work on problems of importance. For the military, SRI researchers have developed a system that integrates what satellites, planes, and soldiers on the ground are seeing to give a universal view of a broad area. Also of military utility is an inexpensive imager that enhances night vision. SRI education researchers are studying school-based counseling to help students exposed to trauma cope. Biosciences has a 10-year, \$100 million contract to do preclinical studies of drugs to get them into clinical trials—drugs that may be candidates for treating anthrax, Chagas disease, dengue, ebola, HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis. Engineers are studying how to turn abundant coal and natural gas into jet fuel with no emission of carbon dioxide, no water consumption, and possibly lower capital costs. An open-source three-dimensional online training platform developed for instruction on how to weatherize homes has promise for many other training needs. A low-cost grasping robot has been developed that is based on the mechanics of the human hand, giving it more sensitivity and precision in its grasp.

The Next Generation

Curt speculated that just as the mouse is the icon of the last generation of computer science, the CALO/Siri technology could very well become the icon of the next generation. Bright, a virtual personal assistant computer display, responds to vision, speech, touch, and gesture. It could represent the next generation of the human-computer interface. Spinoffs Trapit, Tempo AI, and Desti incorporate the personal assistant technology—Trapit for personalized Web searches, Tempo AI for organizing and accessing in real time desktop tools and critical data, and Desti for personalized travel planning. All share the feature of learning to know the user’s preferences and building on that learning to make intelligent choices.

It sounds like it won’t be long before we see whether Curt’s prediction proves to be true.

SRI Spinoff Intuitive Surgical

By Phil Green

In 1995, SRI spun off its Telepresence Surgery technology to start-up Intuitive Surgical. This technology was created to overcome the difficulties of performing laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgery by making it look and feel like open surgery through a unique integration of special telemanipulators and 3-D video. The press dubbed it “robotic surgery,” but it’s much more than that.

Seventeen years later, under the guidance of CEO and SRI alumnus Gary Guthart, Intuitive has literally transformed the field of surgery with its da Vinci surgery systems. The da Vinci surgeon sits comfortably at a unique console and operates, with greatly enhanced precision, on a patient on a nearby operating table (see photo).



Compared with open surgery and conventional laparoscopic surgery, da Vinci surgery results in better outcomes, fewer complications, less blood loss, less post-op pain, and shorter hospital stays.

There are now about 2,000 da Vinci systems in more than 1,450 hospitals worldwide. The utilization rate is so high that many hospitals have bought a second one—at \$1 million to \$1.5 million each, plus recurring instrument and service costs. The annual sales growth rate has been 25%.

One procedure that has received particularly widespread notice is radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer. In many hospitals, almost all these surgeries are performed on a da Vinci. There is now a long list of other procedures commonly done in this manner in urology, gynecology, cardiothoracic surgery, and general surgery.

The latest application is not laparoscopic at all. Surgeons are now operating through the mouth, resecting hard-to-reach cancerous tissues in the mouth and throat that otherwise would have required disfiguring facial surgery and a long hospital stay. “It’s like you’re standing on the patient’s tongue,” said surgeon Jeffrey Wolf of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Under the protection of SRI’s patents and many of its own, Intuitive has had the field of “robotic” surgery all to itself. Intuitive has done a fantastic job, and the world is a better place for it.

In his 25 years at SRI, Dr. Phil Green made important contributions in ultrasonic imaging and minimally invasive surgery. He was honored for his contributions with the Weldon B. Gibson Achievement Award in June 2003.

SRI and the Computer History Museum Collaborate to Put Early Internet Archives on the Web

SRI has contributed \$10,000 to kick off the effort of the Computer History Museum, located in Mountain View, CA, to put early Douglas Engelbart, Network Information Center (NIC), and Internet archives online. SRI alumna Elizabeth Feinler was a member of Dr. Engelbart’s Augmentation Research Center (ARC) in the early 1970s and was principal investigator for the ARPANET/Defense Data Network Information Center (NIC) project from 1974 to 1989.

As you may know, members of Dr. Engelbart’s group electronically connected their computer to one at UCLA in 1968 to start the ARPANET, which was the forerunner of the Internet we all use today. They also had an active role in developing the Internet protocols—particularly TCP/IP. The NIC was the repository and information hub of the Internet in the early years before the Web. As such, it served as a kind of prehistoric Google and also administered the naming and addressing activity on the Internet from 1970 until 1991. Feinler saved more than 300 boxes of hard-copy archives from this period. (Her friends kid her and say she never saw a piece of paper she didn’t like!) After she retired from SRI and NASA, she donated this important collection to the Computer History Museum. As a volunteer at the museum, she has worked on culling and organizing the collection and writing a finding aid to describe what it contains and why it is important.

Hard-copy archives are useful for preservation and authenticity, but they are not widely available to researchers and the public. Consequently, the museum is launching a fund-raising effort to make the collection available on the Worldwide Web so that anyone can access it. SRI got the ball rolling with its generous offer of \$10,000.

SRI has been a strong supporter of the museum and has collaborated with it on several history projects. This donation will help start the effort to make the Engelbart, NIC, and Internet archives public, which in turn will highlight the many contributions SRI has made to the development of the Internet. Many thanks to Alice Resnick, Vice President of Corporate and Marketing Communications, for her efforts in making this donation possible.

David Liddle Joins SRI International Board of Directors



David Liddle has been elected to SRI's Board of Directors. He is a partner at U.S. Venture Partners, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm, where he specializes in mobile and wireless semiconductor and software companies.

Dr. Liddle is a director at MaxLinear, AltoBeam,

Electric Cloud, Karmasphere, Klocwork, Instantis, and The New York Times Company.

He also serves on the Board of the College of Engineering at Stanford University and has had similar roles at the University of Michigan and the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Liddle is also on the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, responsible for recommending national telecommunications policy to Congress.

Dr. Liddle's past public board experience includes Sybase, Broderbund Software, Borland Software, and Ticketmaster.

Previously, Dr. Liddle was CEO of Interval Research Corporation, a Silicon Valley research laboratory and incubator for new broadband, consumer device, interaction design, and advanced technology businesses that he co-founded with Paul Allen, a Microsoft co-founder.

Before Interval, Dr. Liddle was the co-founder and CEO of Metaphor Computer Systems, which was acquired by IBM. Earlier, he was at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), where he led product development efforts on the personal computer graphical user interface, office laser printing, and Ethernet networks.

He earned his doctorate in electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Toledo and a B.S. in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan. His contributions to human-computer interaction design have earned Dr. Liddle the distinction of Senior Fellow at the Royal College of Art.

Sean P. David, SRI Research Physician, Selected as Puffer/American Board of Family Medicine/Institute of Medicine Fellow

Sean P. David, M.D., Ph.D., an SRI research physician and director of the Translational Medicine program in SRI's Policy Division, has been selected as the 2011–2013 James C. Puffer, M.D./American Board of Family Medicine Fellow at the Institute of Medicine. He was selected from an outstanding group of nominees because of his accomplishments in family



medicine and specifically his work on smoking cessation and health promotion. In addition to his role at SRI, Dr. David is Clinical Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine.

As part of the two-year fellowship, Dr. David is working with eminent researchers, policy experts, and clinicians from across the United States to provide nonpartisan, evidence-based guidance to national, state, and local policymakers, academic leaders, health care administrators, and the public.

At SRI, Dr. David develops innovative patient-centered treatment methods for smoking cessation. A recent project was coordination between SRI and 49 other organizations working on the first genome-wide meta-analysis of smoking behaviors in African Americans.

Dr. David's earlier experience includes leadership of several pharmacogenetic clinical trials of bupropion and nicotine replacement therapy and functional neuroimaging studies

of nicotine dependence. He is the author of more than 50 publications, mainly on smoking cessation, genetics, genomics, and public health, and is a co-leader of the STOMP (Study of Tobacco in Minority Populations) Genetics Consortium.

Dr. David received his M.D. at the University of Washington and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Oxford. His residency training was at the New Hampshire/Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency Program, where

he was chief resident and developed and led several health promotion programs with the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth.

Named in honor of James C. Puffer, president and chief executive officer of the American Board of Family Medicine, the fellowship program enables talented early-career health policy and science scholars in family medicine to participate in the work of the Institute of Medicine and further their careers as future leaders in the field.

HISTORY CORNER

Chasing the ECHO

By Walter Jaye

On August 12, 1960, nearly three years after *Sputnik*, the United States launched a new type of “communications satellite.” NASA sponsored, it was a Bell Labs and Jet Propulsion Laboratory venture. People nowadays automatically assume that such a satellite receives broadcasts from one location on the ground and then retransmits the signal to another location as much as thousands of miles away. This first experiment, though, was a passive system. The satellite was a metalized Mylar balloon 100 feet in diameter, called *ECHO I*, orbiting about 600 to 900 miles above the Earth. Signals from the ground were beamed at it and the balloon acted as a reflector.



Sounds simple, except that it required large transmitting and receiving antennas 60 feet or more in diameter. You don't carry those around in a backpack.

What did SRI have to do with this project? Well, to show the world how technically sophisticated we were, NASA decided on a bit of propaganda: It asked President Eisenhower whether he would transmit a message via this new means to Queen Elizabeth II in England. The president agreed and the project was on. The transmitter was a Bell Labs giant horn antenna at Holmdel, NJ, and the receiver would be the 250-foot antenna at Jodrell Bank near Manchester, England, run by Sir Bernard Lovell. All well and good, except that the Manchester antenna had a breakdown that would require quite a bit of time to repair. By now, it was July and the NASA people realized that the balloon would

enter the Earth's shadow in the fall. The decrease in solar pressure would cause the balloon to start having dimples and to lose its sphericity. Who might be able to backstop the Brits on this?

SRI's Radio Physics Laboratory at that time was running an auroral research experiment at Fraserburgh in Scotland using a 140-foot-diameter antenna, sponsored by Rome Air Development Center (RADC) of the U.S. Air Force. So NASA did the logical thing: It decided to give the repair job to SRI, with the necessary money funneled through RADC.

The SRI principal investigator was W. R. "Ray" Vincent from the Communications Laboratory. He assembled all the necessary equipment, packed in two suitcases, and was ready to go. At the time, I was under contract to the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory, which sponsored our satellite tracking effort with the 60-foot dish in the hills behind Stanford. The lab thought it would be a good idea to take advantage of this opportunity to get more data on the satellites we were tracking. Thus, I was delegated to accompany Ray—and of course he needed someone to help carry the suitcases.

Some of you old-timers may remember that the money funneling procedure, as logical as it was, caused great pain to bureaucrats, and the ones at RADC were absolute champions at procrastination. Time elapsed, and we were by now in August and nothing had happened. NASA got antsy. In desperation, as time was beginning to run out and Jodrell Bank was still not back up, Hugh Dryden, the NASA Administrator, decided to call someone higher up in the Air Force, namely, General Bernard Schriever, the commander of the Air Research and Development Command, RADC's boss. That conversation took place on a Friday morning. General Schriever approved of the scheme and picked up

the phone, telling the RADC commander in no uncertain terms that the contract had to be approved and SRI notified by the end of that very working day. Incredible as it sounds, Chuck Hilly, head of our Contracts Office, got the call by 4:00 p.m. West Coast time, well past the end of the working day back East.

Ray called me that afternoon as soon as he knew, and off we went on Saturday morning to New York. We changed planes at Idlewild (now JFK) and arrived in London on Sunday morning. Going through the “Nothing to Declare” gate of Customs at Ray’s direction—not just with our personal baggage, but also with two suitcases full of electronic gear—gave me a bit of a scare. Ray said not to worry; he knew whom to call in case we had a problem, and we proceeded without incident. I found out afterwards that Ray had contacts and phone numbers for people from MI-1 to MI-9 (or so it seemed). At Heathrow we headed for the counter of the airline that was to fly us to Aberdeen. To our astonishment, we were told, “We don’t fly on the Sabbath.” So off by cab to King’s Cross station and the long train ride to Edinburgh. A rented car took us to Fraserburgh.

The rest of the story is anticlimactic. We tracked the ECHO satellite but never managed to fully receive the test voice messages. Jodrell Bank came back up just in time, we think because Sir Bernard was not going to let the Yanks give the president’s message to his queen.

Innovation – How the Magic Box Was Opened

By C. Josh Abend

InnovationCity.com

Former head of SRI’s Innovation Management Center

The word *innovation* now appears millions of times a day in the global media, Internet sites, white papers, and the like. But until just recently that was far from the case. How and when did innovation—the magic box that we wish to think out of—gain acceptance? With the advantage of having been there, done that, let me offer some history.

Resistance to Change in the Mid-1970s

Imagine what it was like in the past to persuade hard-nosed, arms-folded corporate executives to buy in to something sounding as impractical as “creativity”? The word seemed to evoke images of engineers in painting smocks or dancing pirouettes in tutus. Imagine trying to convince the same executives that innovation runs on the energy of creativity and moreover that innovation is destined to become the

key economic and competitive game-changer of their corporate future! “You want us to invest shareholder dollars in something fuzzy, unrepeatable, cloudy, and dependent on luck and serendipity?”

That resistance actually proved to be self-correcting. Companies with the greatest resistance to change and thus to innovation simply began to vanish or fall hopelessly behind. Even when real evidence of *Innovate or Evaporate* (James M. Higgins, 1995) was so obvious, big corporate ships, carrying so much value and human cargo, were so fearful of creative risk that they chose to go to the bottom rather than make a course correction.

Development of Innovation Programs

Fortunately, the flame of innovation was never extinguished, and it was tended by others, including SRI. Researchers and consultants coming from an academic lab and technology culture introduced some defined innovation programs into their client offerings. This was appealing to the defense industry as well as to large foreign clients that wanted both safety and technology solutions. The appeal was that the program could be done with deliberation, rationality, and even on schedule.

At SRI, Joe McPherson, a psychologist, developed the successful Innovation Search program. (I did not know Joe when I replaced him in about 1984. I had been recruited by Bill Dowdy from my consulting practice in New York.) The model defined a specific client objective and then combined a client team with top SRI technologists to seek solutions. Perhaps some of you recall participating in those programs for Yamaha, Mitsubishi, General Electric, Corning, United Carbide, and others. Identifying the right people in the various SRI labs who were most suited to bringing their special technological expertise to a search was always the key to a good outcome. When that expertise was combined with creative inquiry, something interesting usually happened. Whereas clients were seeking ways to meet a specific goal, the team often produced more viable options than expected or than could be addressed. Parsing for the best direction was always the most challenging. I recall that Bill Ralston, who joined me in a number of programs, was always good at that.

I was also impressed with the work of consultants like Booz-Allen, still a leader in the innovation field today, and GE, a powerhouse that could always reinvent itself. GE came up with an idea process called Value Engineering or Value

Analysis, an early innovation process for radically improving a product and reducing cost at the same time. Engineers disliked it because it required excruciating examination of and options for every single feature and part in a product, but it worked 95% of the time. It was worthwhile to have that in an innovation tool kit.

My most direct influence came from CPSI, the Creative Problem Solving Institute offered by the Creative Education Foundation (CEF) at the University of Buffalo. CPSI was the birthplace of such now well-known concepts as brainstorming (invented by CEF founder Alex Osborn and documented in his book *Applied Imagination*, 1953), win-win, thinking outside the box, the aha moment, go with the flow, and other popular terms. I attended the annual CPSI weeks for over 10 years and learned to use more than 100 new cognitive right-brain techniques for stimulating ideas and insights.

Innovation as a System

The magic box opened, and innovation moved from *art* to *discipline*; now it should move to *system* in the form of C-level responsibility.

Innovation, since Leonardo da Vinci, had been a personal and individualistic art. For innovation to gain acceptance in the business world, the previous emphasis on creativity needed to shift to larger and more quantifiable aspects of innovation practice. Practitioners needed to convey that innovation was a discipline, that it was deliberate, measurable, repeatable, transferable, and useful. Curt Carlson saw this and expressed it well in his book *Innovation: The Five Disciplines for Creating What Customers Want*, still being applied today. My mantra is that 50% or more of the growth and destiny of any product or organization will depend on its skill and efficacy in innovation. The following are my 10 criteria to gauge whether a company's innovation model is working and how well:

1. Repeatable—applies and works to solve many problems
2. Serial—pipeline stays full

3. Transferable—skills applied in all functions of the organization
4. Quantifiable—what is working, level of innovation performance
5. Aligned—innovation achieves company objectives
6. Embeddable—system is self-steering and self-correcting
7. Reproductive—produces more experienced and better innovators
8. Successful—revenue and/or technical goals achieved
9. Opportunity—identifies new directions previously unknown or unused
10. No creative restraints; builds tangible culture of respect and success

Ultimately, the responsibility for measuring and monitoring these criteria has to be in the hands of a skilled C-level innovation executive, whom I define as Chief Innovation Architect (CIA). CIAs will provide innovation leadership to maintain competitive advantage, employment, and economic sustainability. In five years or less, the CIA will probably equal or surpass the CEO in authority.

The Secret Sauce and Its Power

Is there a secret sauce in innovation? I think it is something we are all endowed with: *imagination*.

When we apply our innovation know-how and methodology and tap our collective imagination, we can realize the full power of the magic box: universal solutions for human welfare. If you are an innovator, your challenge is waiting.

Josh Abend has had a long and varied career. Besides SRI, diverse organizations including GM, the U.S. Navy, and many others have benefited from his expertise. Josh has taught creative problem solving and product design at several colleges and was VP of product design for a Fortune 500 company. If you wish to reprint this article or to contact Josh, e-mail him at abend@innovationengines.com.

Gia Campari to Hold an Encore Concert at Fidenza Opera House on May 26



Friends from the United States and Australia have brought Gia Campari out of her four-year retirement from concert giving. With their encouragement and sponsorship, Gia will hold another concert (her fifth since 1998) on Saturday, May 26, 2012, at the Fidenza Opera House in Italy (halfway

between Milan and Bologna). SRI alumni and friends are invited to attend—and be part of the chorus if they can be there ahead of time to practice. A dinner after the concert and a Sunday excursion are also planned. For details and to let Gia know you can attend, go to her concert website (<http://www.friendsinconcert.co.uk>).

Gia always had a dream of singing but did not begin taking lessons until later in life. When a friend asked why she was bothering with lessons and practice when she would never get to sing in public, she replied, “I’ll hire an opera house in Italy and give a recital just for my friends!” Her friend asked when, and Gia replied, “In two years.”

Gia did in fact hire the opera house and give a concert two years later. It took persistence, self-discipline, and commitment. A vivid image helped, too: “I would ... envision myself singing my favourite arias in a stunning evening gown on the stage of the splendid 19th Century opera house—a stone’s throw from Verdi’s birthplace—the traditional gold and red horse-shoe shaped auditorium in front of me, packed with my friends.”

Gia promises to write about her concert for the newsletter. But the best thing would be to be there in person!

Editor’s note: See the April 2005 newsletter (available online) for more on Gia’s musical activities.

New Play Reveals That Slavery Continues Today

By Peter Miles

I recently had the privilege, as one of its patrons, to assist the presentation of the play *Slave—A Question of Freedom* by Feelgood Theatre Productions at Riverside Studios in London. The play reveals dramatically the continuation of slavery today.

It is the story of Mende Nazer, who was brought up in the Muslim tradition in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan and whose happy childhood was cruelly cut short at the age of twelve when Mujahidin raiders attacked her village. Mende was raped, abducted, and sold to an Arab woman in Khartoum, where she was kept as a domestic slave for seven years. Passed on by her mistress like a parcel to a relative who was married to a Sudanese diplomat in London, Mende eventually managed to escape to freedom.

Our friend Damien Lewis, a writer and filmmaker, took care of Mende and helped her to be granted asylum in the UK. Mende and Damien then jointly wrote the book *Slave*, the life story of Mende, which has become a best seller worldwide. The play produced in London was adapted from the book by Kevin Fegan and Caroline Clegg, and it won the inaugural Pete Postlethwaite Best New Play award in 2011.

Mende now is an active campaigner for human rights and has spoken out internationally against slavery in Sudan. She has been granted an honorary degree from London Metropolitan University. (I have become her honorary financial adviser.)

The creation in 2011 of an independent South Sudan Republic was greeted with much joy, but unfortunately Darfur and the Nuba Mountains were not included and remain under the control of Khartoum. From his recent visits, Dr. Kabila, prior chief of the United Nations mission to Sudan, reported continued assassination, rape, and pillage in those regions. Actor George Clooney was arrested outside the Sudanese embassy in Washington, DC, on March 20, protesting against the continued genocide in the Nuba Mountains. Baroness Caroline Cox, a notable human rights activist, has reported that some 27 million men, women, and children are slaves worldwide today, ten times the number involved during the trans-Atlantic slave trade.



Taxi Tales

In the last Alumni Newsletter, we introduced Taxi Tales, wonderful reminiscences by Peter Weissshuhn about taxi drivers and adventures during his travels with SRI. Peter was in SRI's Croydon office and worked mostly for European clients, as well as for U.S. and Japanese clients in Europe. In this issue, Peter takes us to Bangkok.

Bangkok

By Peter Weissshuhn

A colleague and I had to fly to Tokyo on business. John knew the East and suggested we take advantage of the airline's offer of a stopover in Bangkok for 24 hours. A limousine would whisk us to a 4-star hotel and return us to our connecting flight the next day, all for a modest extra outlay.

Our arrival early in the morning would give us an opportunity to visit the famous floating market and other attractions during the day. As our plane descended toward the airport, I noticed that the fields were flooded. Just then, the pilot announced that the monsoon had arrived weeks early and that there was serious flooding in the city.

Fortunately, the airport lies higher than the city, but even so the waters were right up to the pavement outside the terminal. We had landed but might not be able to fly out the next day. But a more immediate challenge was getting to town. There would be no limousine: "Very sorry." When we phoned our hotel, we learned that the water was ankle-deep in the lobby and knee-deep outside. Our attempts to motivate the taxi drivers stranded at the airport were failing. Finally, one driver volunteered, at a premium over the usual fare. We shared the cab with a photographer who had come to take pictures for a holiday brochure.

To get into the taxi, we had to take off shoes and socks and roll our trouser legs up. On the highway, the bow-waves of passing trucks quickly filled the car's footwell with warmish water, my only experience of a footbath in a taxi. The flooded highway's edges could be guessed at only by the lines of abandoned vehicles on the soft shoulder, some on their side in the ditch.

Our taxi was a large Toyota Saloon and proved remarkably resistant to the ingress of water into the engine compartment. But finally it succumbed, the distributor having got wet. That's when we realised what a lucky choice we had made in our driver, not that there had been an alternative. He had things dried off and running within a few minutes, a process he had to repeat twice before we finally reached the hotel.

Having found this jewel of a driver, we asked him to wait and take us to the floating market after we had checked in. John, a keen jogger, had brought his trainers, but I needed to buy suitable footwear to wade around town. I asked the driver where I could buy flip-flops and he took us to a supermarket. They had masses of flip-flops, in all colours, but only for dainty Thai feet. My size 11 was well beyond the local range.

Once again our driver came to the rescue, taking us to a small shoe shop specialising in larger sizes. There I bought the only pair that would fit me, sandals embossed in gold: *Genuine Leather Made in England*. We are accustomed in the West to cheap footwear coming from the East, but that the trade in sandals operated both ways came as a surprise. I was grateful, though, for the alternative would have been to ruin an expensive pair of brogues.

So we did get to see the floating market along with many other things that should not have been floating. We visited shrines and a palace and had an excellent dinner that night in a sandbagged restaurant where the floor was still wet but the food and service superb. And we did get the plane to Tokyo the next morning, the monsoon having subsided. The newspapers carried pictures of people netting carp in the flooded streets. Incredibly in a city of millions, only a handful of people had been electrocuted by fallen wires.

If ever I needed an outstanding taxi driver, this was the time. He was impressively calm, competent, and polite. And we marveled at the utter composure with which the Thais coped. The streets had become canals, but that did not prevent people from kneeling before the little shrines at which food is offered to the gods, even when they send the monsoon early and with such vehemence.

Join the SRI Alumni Group on LinkedIn

Alumni who have profiles on LinkedIn may have noticed the new group, SRI International. It contains timely news about SRI, such as a link to an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on the next artificial intelligence frontier, promising research in stopping drug addiction, and the topic of an upcoming Café Scientifique. Find this group under “Groups You May Like” in LinkedIn or go to <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/SRI-International-2848919>.

Plan to Attend the Spring Fling at the Computer History Museum on Thursday, May 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The SRI Alumni Association is returning to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View this spring. The exhibits have been greatly expanded since our last visit, and many SRI innovations are featured. For example, you will see a scale model of the SRI van that housed the mobile packet radio network used in the first “Internet” transmission (see the December 2010 newsletter for an article on the van). Please plan to be at the museum by 11:00 a.m. The Computer History Museum is at 1401 North Shoreline Boulevard in Mountain View, CA 94043.

The fee will be \$20 per person, which includes admission and a box lunch. We hope that alumni who live in the Bay Area or who will be visiting in May will attend what should be a very interesting and enjoyable outing. Please complete the enclosed sign-up form and return it by May 7.



DIRECTORY ADDENDUM

The enclosed directory addendum (covering the period December 4, 2011, to March 31, 2012) contains new members and corrections. Please add it to your 2012 Directory.

Time for Hall of Fame Nominations

Once again, it is time to nominate candidates for the SRI Alumni Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors those former SRI staff members who made exceptional contributions to the success of SRI. All former staff members are eligible, and nominations are due by June 4, 2012.

Please send a write-up of about 300 words describing how your candidate meets the Hall of Fame criteria:

- Significant and lasting contributions to the success of SRI
- Contributions recognized by staff, management, or clients
- Contributions in any area of research, management, or service, such as
 - Establishing a new laboratory or a new field of research
 - Performing an outstanding recognized service
 - Clearly demonstrating qualities of leadership, vision, and creativity
- What did the person leave behind?
 - Enhanced reputation for SRI
 - New or enhanced research, business, or support activity or facility

You can find examples of write-ups at <http://alumni.sri.com/fame.html>

Please send your nominations by June 4, 2012, to steering-committee-alumni@sri.com or SRI Alumni Association, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, AC-108, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3439.

WELCOME

The SRI Alumni Association welcomes new members:

Peter Bowden
Roland Burkhead
Stanley Wier

We look forward to your participation in the Alumni Association and hope to see you at our next group event.

ALUMNI NEWS (Concluded)

SRI International Alumni Association

Cash Flow/Income and Expense

Year ending December 31, 2011

CASH BALANCE as of 01/01/11 (see Note below)		\$13,628.17
 INCOME		
Cash income from membership dues and fees	\$11,533.64	
Dividend income from bank account funds	\$7.92	
Contributed funds		
SRI Federal Credit Union	\$2,000.00	
SRI International (see reunion expense below)	\$3,693.67	
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,235.23	\$17,235.23
 EXPENSE		
Services provided by SRI International		
Report production services	\$5,846.40	
Postage and mailing expense	\$2,057.14	
 Special events and awards		
Annual Reunion expense (see contributed funds above)		
Food and beverage	\$3,693.67	
Spring Fling (Walt Disney Family Museum)		
Entry fee	\$339.00	
Lunch	\$316.00	
Transportation	\$870.81	
 Other expenditures and costs		
Office supplies	\$68.19	
Miscellaneous expense	\$62.51	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$13,253.72	\$13,253.72
CASH BALANCE as of 12/31/11		\$17,609.68

NOTE: The beginning Cash Balance as of 01/01/11, as shown above, has been adjusted to reflect a 2010 donation of \$2,000.00 by SRI shown on last year's statement as a 2010 donation but really not received or "booked" until January 2011. Last year's statement anticipated this donation for presentation purposes.



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*APR=Annual Percentage Rate.

Bruce Baker*



Bruce Baker, former director of SRI's International Information Integrity Institute, died peacefully in his Palo Alto home on December 8, 2011, one day before his 81st birthday.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Bruce proudly traced his ancestry to passengers aboard the Mayflower landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. He received his bachelor's degree from Princeton in economics and statistics, MBA from Stanford in 1961, and Ph.D. from George Washington University in business administration. Following his Ph.D. award, he became an assistant professor at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and then became a professor at the University of Wisconsin in business management.

Bruce joined SRI in Menlo Park in 1985 and was instrumental in creating the International Information Integrity Institute (I-4) in the SRI Business Consulting Group; he was its director until he retired in 2001. The 25-year-old I-4 (now owned by KPMG LLC) still operates, providing confidential information security advisory services to many of the largest business organizations in the world. It was primarily through Bruce's frugal and conservative management that I-4 was so successful for so long. He scrutinized every penny to be spent as though it were his own. Bruce was both a professional friend and a warm personal friend of every I-4 participant, guest, and staffer. Modesty became him. He and his supportive wife, Mary, welcomed all into their Palo Alto home. He created a loyalty among I-4 members that lasts to this day.

Lanky, 6-foot-6 Donn Parker, the founder of I-4 at SRI, would introduce Bruce at I-4 Forums by saying, "Stand up, Bruce!" And, of course, all 5 feet 7 inches of him were already vertical. He had an immediate response with some smart retorts about Donn that are best left for attendees' memory. Donn once turned to him and said, "Bruce, we have known one another for 30 years, and that suit still looks good on you." He always took Donn's abuse and gave it right back with a twinkle in his eye and with as much pleasure and a big grin as everybody else within hearing range. Bruce's wit and sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Bruce is survived by Mary, his wife of 48 years; children Andrea, Ashlee, James, Melanie, and Sara; grandchildren Nicholas, Ellie, Nova, Angela, Milan, Philip (PJ), Madeleine, Ryan, and Lindsey; and brother Winslow.

Sidney Benson*



Sidney Benson, a former chemistry group manager at SRI, died at his home in Brentwood, California, of complications from a stroke on December 30, 2011, at age 93.

Born in New York City, Sid obtained a bachelor's degree with honors in chemistry, physics, and mathematics from Columbia University in 1938 and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Harvard University in 1941.

Sid came to SRI in 1963 in the middle of an award-winning career that included work as Group Leader at the Kellogg Corporation for the Manhattan Project in 1943 and a long-time teaching and research career at USC. During his 13 years at SRI, he served as Manager of the Thermochemistry and Chemical Kinetics Group. This group was part of an organization headed by Charlie Cook called Chemical, Theoretical, and Applied Physics. Parts of these programs remain at SRI in the Physical Sciences Division. The work of Sid's group was important in the application areas of combustion, chemical lasers, and atmospheric chemistry. Sid's research was known for exceptional creativity and high impact and included a 40-year continuous effort exploring the kinetics and thermochemistry of free radicals.

After leaving SRI in 1976, Sid returned to USC, where he co-directed the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute until he retired in 1991. He authored more than 500 peer-reviewed papers and two well-known textbooks, and his work is highly cited. He was elected to the Chemistry section of the National Academy of Sciences in 1981 and received numerous other awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship award, the Tolman Medal, the Polanyi Medal, and the American Chemical Society award in Petroleum Chemistry.

James Bliss*



James Bliss, former SRI engineering staff member and a prominent technological innovator in Silicon Valley, died in Los Altos of multiple myeloma on January 24, 2012, at age 78.

Jim was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and grew up in Oklahoma City and Chicago. He earned a B.S. from Northwestern University, an M.S. from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. from M.I.T., all in electrical engineering. He began his engineering career at SRI in Menlo Park in 1961. While at SRI, he joined forces with Professor John Linvill at Stanford University to develop a reading machine for John's daughter, Candy, who was blind. After several years of development, the result was a small, portable reading system called the Optacon, which revolutionized the blindness field. During this time, he was also an Associate Professor at Stanford University, where he taught electrical engineering courses and supervised Ph.D. candidates.

In 1971, Jim and Linvill co-founded Telesensory Systems to manufacture and disseminate the Optacon, as well as other high-technology products and technologies, including speech synthesis, for people who were blind or had low vision. Jim served as President of Telesensory Systems for more than 20 years. He was also instrumental in founding several other Silicon Valley companies, including Speech Plus Inc. and Datacopy Corp. After leaving Telesensory Systems, he founded JBliss Imaging Systems in 1994, where he served as President for 5 years. In 2007, he received the Migel Medal—the highest honor in the blindness field—from the American Foundation for the Blind.

In retirement, Jim served on the Santa Clara County Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the Los Altos Hills Pathway Committee. After moving to the Parc Regent home in Los Altos, he continued his interest in hiking, even writing a book on the subject. He also was active in raising funds for multiple myeloma research organizations.

Jim is survived by his wife, Joan; children Judith and John; grandchildren Paul, Jane, Tom, and Mandela; and sister Linda.

Marjorie Bothun



Marjorie Bothun, an SRI economics researcher from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s, died of cancer on February 7, 2012, at age 87.

Born in Aurora, Illinois, Marjorie graduated from Aurora High School in 1942 and earned a degree in economics from Duke University in 1946. After working for Time-Life as an economist, she moved to Palo Alto and took a position as a researcher in SRI's Economics Department in the mid-1950s. At SRI, she met Richard Bothun, an electrical engineer, and they married in 1957. Marjorie left SRI and devoted herself to being a mother after the birth of their son, Brian, in 1962. In 1964, the family moved to Atherton, where Marjorie lived for her remaining 48 years. Richard died in 1973, and Marjorie went back to work later in life, retiring from Allied Brokers in 1996.

Marjorie was an avid reader, a crossword puzzle aficionado, and a bridge player, and she loved vacationing at the beach reading books and spending time with her sister and two nieces. A member of the Los Altos Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, she was proud of being a descendant of James Pardee, who fought in the Revolutionary War, but she also was an Anglophile with a keen interest in King Richard III. In 1988, she and a friend visited England and traced Richard III's life, visiting associated castles and points of interest. In retirement, she often awoke at 4 a.m. to download the day's crossword puzzle from the London Times website.

Marjorie is survived by her son, Brian; sister Eugenie; nephews Jeff and Bruce; nieces Cynthia and Melinda; and two grandnieces and one grandnephew.

Helen Burrill*



Helen Burrill died in Redwood City on February 25, 2012, at age 90.

Born in Troy, New York, Helen graduated from Troy High School in 1939 and from the Troy Business College Stenographic Course in 1940. She and her husband moved to Palo Alto in 1962, and Helen joined SRI in Menlo Park at that time.

Helen is survived by children Marjorie and James and grandchildren Amanda, Benjamin, and Charlotte.

Bonnar Cox*



Bonnar "Bart" Cox, a lifelong resident of the Palo Alto area and longtime SRI staff member, died of cancer on April 3, 2012, at age 88.

Bart attended schools in Menlo Park and Palo Alto and served with the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. After the war, he resumed his interrupted university studies, graduating in 1948 with a degree in electrical engineering from Stanford. In

1951, Bart married Barbara Ruth Stone, whom he had met in a church young-adult group. They were married for 50 years, until her death in 2001.

Also in 1951, Bart joined SRI as an engineer. He was assigned to design hardware systems for the ERMA project, which developed a successful new computer-based banking system for the Bank of America. Later, as Director of the Information Sciences and Engineering (ISE) Division, he oversaw the establishment and operation of such groups as Doug Engelbart's Augmentation Research Center; Charlie Rosen's Applied Physics Lab, which evolved into SRI's highly regarded Artificial Intelligence Center; Fred Kamphoefner's Control Systems Lab; and Jack Goldberg's Computer Science Lab. These and other labs under Bart's

supervision developed revolutionary technologies in early robotics, computer systems, and advanced medical and aerospace systems that changed the world, and their work continues to this day. In the last part of his career at SRI, as Director of Technology Marketing, he was responsible for the technology management aspects of the Patents and Licensing operations. He retired in 1994 and was one of the first-year inductees into the SRI Alumni Hall of Fame in 1998.

Throughout his life, Bart had many interests, including music, sports, fishing, camping, handyman projects, and puzzles. He sang bass in church choirs at the First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto for more than 60 years, and Bart, his brother James, and two friends formed an award-winning barbershop quartet, The Four Colonels of Corn, which was in great demand as a performing group in the Bay Area. Later, he and Barbara joined the San Jose Symphonic Choir, singing there for many years and touring in Europe and the United Kingdom. He was a rabid San Francisco Giants fan and a loyal season-ticket holder for Stanford football and basketball. He loved puzzles of all kinds and never started his day without a cup of coffee and two crossword puzzles.

Bart is survived by daughters Andrea Jane (AJ), Patricia, and Mary; sons Bill and Alan; and 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Charles Hiebert*

Charles "Charlie" Hiebert, a chemist at SRI from 1988 through 2003, died unexpectedly and suddenly of heart disease at his home in Mountain View on February 2, 2012, at age 55.

Born in Iowa, Charlie attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids before doing graduate work at the University of Iowa and postdoctoral work at Northwestern University.

During Charlie's time at SRI, he was very active in the SRI Golf Club, as well as being a very social, friendly person. After leaving SRI, he became an instructor teaching chemistry at De Anza College in Cupertino, where students commented that they benefited from Charlie's practical experience as a working chemist.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Kathy; daughter Amanda; and brother Terry.

William Mohr

William Mohr, an SRI staff member in the Rosslyn, Virginia, office, died peacefully at home with his family at his side on January 12, 2012, at age 66. He succumbed to an aggressive form of melanoma after being diagnosed with the cancer last November.

Bill received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master's degree in organic chemistry from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. After college, Bill began his naval career at the Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. His first assignment was to teach chemistry at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. His military career involved teaching, research and development, and varied assignments, including the Navy Space Command.

Following his distinguished 20-year career in the Navy, Bill joined SRI in 1989 in the Rosslyn Federal Business Development organization, focusing on the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Intelligence Community. During his career, he worked on a variety of programs and projects, specializing in the areas of chemical and biological sensor development, space nuclear power systems, nuclear weapons effects and underground nuclear testing, hardening of DoD weapons systems to nuclear weapons effects, radiation effects on microelectronics, and radar cross-section (RCS) measurement technology. He had a significant role in the tremendous growth of SRI's national security business areas in the 1990s. Bill used his deep technical knowledge and extensive military experience to support SRI efforts in research, technology development, and systems delivery in a variety of areas, but specializing in sensing and surveillance programs. Bill eventually took over as Director of the Federal Business Development organization and served as head of the WDC office until 2002. After 2002, Bill continued to support SRI's DoD programs and business development activities.

During his 23 years at SRI, Bill was a true professional in every sense of the word. His strong technical background enabled him to interact with SRI technical staff and then convey complex research, ideas, and solutions to clients in a way that was clear and responsive to their needs. And he did so with detail and certainty that created immediate credibility for SRI. He worked across multiple technologies, multiple clients, and multiple SRI organizations—no simple task. And underneath his easygoing manner were drive and commitment—a drive for excellence and commitment to the success of SRI and its clients.

Bill is survived by his wife, Vickie; children Patrick and Brian; grandchildren Hannah, Lukas, and Gavin; and brother Richard.

Gordon Newell*



Gordon Newell, a 50-year resident of Palo Alto, died peacefully with family at home in Cupertino on March 14, 2012, at age 90.

Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Gordon received his entire academic education, culminating in a Ph.D. in biochemistry, at the University of Wisconsin. His name

is inscribed on the Wall of Distinction in the university's Biochemistry Building.

Gordon held research and management positions in SRI's Life Sciences Division from 1950 to 1978. At SRI, he developed one of the first toxicology departments in the United States; he directed the department from 1968 to 1978. After SRI, he held positions at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., and the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto. He continued his career as an expert toxicology consultant well into his 80s. Over his career, he authored more than 85 technical publications and papers, plus several hundred client-confidential reports. He was known for his scientific and community intellect, serving on numerous professional and community boards and commissions, both locally and worldwide. A renowned scientist, he was recognized in 2011 as one of the longest-serving members of the Society of Toxicology. Gordon was among the first-year inductees into the SRI Alumni Hall of Fame in 1998.

Gordon was an avid fly fisherman and wine connoisseur who once picked grapes with famed winemaker Martin Ray. He loved music, including jazz, classical, dancing, and singing with the Forum Community Chorus. He was a Palo Alto community leader who helped to pass the local construction bond to create Gunn High School.

He was a generous man who welcomed people from both around the world and down the street into his home, where there was always a place at the table. A world traveler both professionally and in leisure, he provided scientific

IN MEMORIAM (Continued)

professional services to countries in Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Gordon is survived by sons Bill and Allan; daughters Gayle and Nancy; and grandchildren Chris, Katie, Danielle, Traci, Paul, David, Bennett, Jacque, and Nicholas.

Vicki Prugh

Vicki Prugh, a staff member in various information technology (IT) roles at SRI and related companies, died on February 26, 2012, three days before her 52nd birthday.

Vicki joined SRI in 2011 as Email Migration Specialist, after working in software development and IT management for SRI Consulting and Atomic Tangerine since 1995.

Vicki will be remembered as a joyful, one-of-a-kind spirit whose boisterous laugh and ready smile brightened her coworkers' days. She exemplified what it truly means to engage actively in living life to its fullest.

Vicki is survived by her mother, Georgia; her husband, Rick; and her brother, Chris.

Wayne Ryder

Wayne Ryder, former SRI Electronic Designer, died at his retirement home in Valley Springs, California, on December 8, 2011, at age 76.

Wayne joined SRI in 1999 and retired in 2011. A talented radio frequency (RF) technician, Wayne was a quiet man who sought the tough jobs. His contributions while assigned to the Instrumentation & Simulation program included developing filter boards that reduced electromagnetic interference significantly on GPS tracking units used during military training exercises. He also developed the hardware for VOIP-based virtual networked radios that permitted a successful real-time integration of Live-Virtual-Constructive (LVC) training systems during a military exercise where participating LVC components were separated by more than 50 miles. His talents also included antenna design and reverse engineering. To see an example of Wayne's craftsmanship, stop by the Building A lobby and look at the replica of the first computer mouse developed at SRI—Wayne built it.

Harold Speltz

Harold Speltz, a former SRI Systems Analyst, died in Pueblo, Colorado, on March 2, 2012, a few days after he

had a stroke while doing something he loved—playing golf. He was 95 years old. Hal worked at SRI from 1955 until he retired in 1981.

Hal is survived by Dixie, his wife of 14 ½ years; siblings Everett, Harriet, and Violet; and stepchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Geoffrey Steel*



Geoffrey Steel, former SRI General Counsel, died of Alzheimer's disease at his home in Fremont on November 22, 2011, at age 85.

Geoff grew up in Marin County and graduated from Tamalpais High School. Near the end of

World War II, he served in the U.S. Army and then continued his education at UC Berkeley. He received his law degree from Hastings School of Law in 1952. After beginning his legal career at a law firm in the Fremont area, he started his long career at SRI, retiring as General Counsel in 1991 after 35 years.

Geoff lived in Fremont for 58 years and was instrumental in the formation of the City of Fremont. He began his involvement by serving on the Mission San Jose School Board, then moving on to the Fremont Planning Commission. After being appointed to the City Council to finish an unexpired term, Geoff successfully ran for office, serving on the council from April 1964 to March 1976, including 2 years as Mayor. During this time, Fremont underwent rapid development from five small farming communities to a thriving suburban city. He was recruited again in January 1995 to serve on the City Council for 6 months to complete an unexpired term.

Geoff loved many sports, but tennis was his game. He played varsity tennis in high school and played recreationally whenever he could until retirement, when he took up golf. He liked playing poker and bridge, as well. He continued his civic involvement in retirement, volunteering for the Ohlone Humane Society and the Tri-City Ecology Center, among others.

Geoff is survived by Mary, his wife of 58 years; children Kathy, Peter, and Nancy; and five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

IN MEMORIAM (Concluded)

Kathleen Voltmer



Kathleen Voltmer, a staff member in Biosciences, died in Redwood City on February 25, 2012, at age 65.

Born in Chicago, Kathy was a graduate of Holy Cross High School in Mountain View and attended San Jose State University. She worked for 35 years as a secretary/editor for Lange Medical Publications and the past 10 years as an Administrative Assistant for SRI. Her 10-year service anniversary date would have been March 25.

Kathy enjoyed gardening and being outdoors. Though she didn't have a garden of her own, she spent many years cultivating and tending to the flowers outside Bldg. 100.

Kathy is survived by siblings Frederick and Linda; nieces and nephews Tyler, Frederick, Alison, Michael, and Chrissy; and great-nephews and -nieces Gianna, Jacob, and Mary Alice.

Dolores Winans

Dolores Winans, a former SRI Resource Analyst, died on November 2, 2011, after suffering a massive stroke on her way home from a 49er game. She was 83 years old.

Dolores was a Resource Analyst at SRI from 1957 through 1973. She returned to SRI in 1989 as a Security Professional, retiring in 2006.

Dolores was a gentle spirit who touched the lives of all she met. She loved to play cards and Trivial Pursuit with her many friends and large family. You always wanted her to be on your team since she usually knew the answer and held the best cards. She loved travel and often combined her love of the 49ers with her love of travel.

Dolores is survived by children Mike, Jan, Cindy, and Tom; grandson Stephen; siblings Bill, Peg, and Barb; and many nieces and nephews.

Mary Wright

Mary Wright, an SRI staff member from 1958 to 1964, died at her home in Palo Alto on December 19, 2011, at age 97.

Born in Arkansas, she graduated with honors from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 1937. On the same day as her graduation, she flew to New York City, where she and her fiancé, Harold (Hal) Wright, were married before the day was over! A Colonel in the U.S. Army, Hal died in a plane crash in 1944 while being transferred from India to Africa.

After Hal's death, Mary worked in several foreign embassies, including those in Rome and London. While working at SRI in Menlo Park, she purchased her home in Palo Alto, where she lived for the rest of her life. For the last 26 years, she was a member of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley, located in Palo Alto.

*Member of the SRI Alumni Association

*The SRI Alumni Newsletter is published three times a year (in April, August, and December) by the SRI Alumni Association,
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