

# Alumni Association



333 Ravenswood Avenue • M/S AC-108  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493

Voicemail: 650-859-5100

Email: [steering-committee-alumni@sri.com](mailto:steering-committee-alumni@sri.com)

Web page: <http://www.sri.com/about/alumni>

## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN PETE VALENTI



*Pete Valenti*

Hi Folks,

It's reunion time again. Yes, our 2014 Annual SRI Alumni Reunion will be on Thursday, September 18. Our plans include a very special musical treat (I'm not kidding), food and drink—tasty as always—interesting speakers, an announcement of a new benefit for Alumni Association members, and, of course, door prizes. Please

plan to attend this event if at all possible. Remember that there's no limit to the number of guests that you can invite, particularly former SRI employees who currently aren't members of the Alumni Association. The first year of membership is free, and we'll make signing up easy right at the reunion.

As always, the newsletter contains information that is important, informative, and entertaining. In particular, this issue includes the announcement that the SRI board

of directors has chosen William Jeffrey, Ph.D., to succeed Curt Carlson as president and CEO. Read all about the new CEO and about Curt's new role. Also read about this year's recipients of SRI's highest honor for technical achievement, the Fellows Award.

Other interesting articles deal with SRI technical achievements, including food recognition technology that will help you decide whether you want to eat the food on your plate. Across the pond, the UK alumni visited the wonderfully restored *Cutty Sark* in Greenwich.

In the History Corner, Bob Schwaar has done a wonderful job documenting the history of the actual land that today is the SRI campus. Have you ever seen a ghost at SRI? Maybe it's one of those souls from the past wandering our hallowed halls!

Stay connected! See you at the reunion.



*The Annual Reunion is September 18, 2014.  
See announcement on page 12. The flyer for this event is enclosed with this mailing.*

## William Jeffrey Named SRI President and CEO

William Jeffrey, Ph.D., will become SRI's tenth president and CEO effective September 1, 2014. Bill has 25 years of experience in contract R&D and science and technology policy. He comes to SRI from HRL Laboratories, LLC, where he has been president and CEO since 2008. Founded as the Hughes Research Laboratories in 1948 and based in Malibu, California, HRL Laboratories is owned by The Boeing Company and General Motors. It conducts R&D in sensors and materials, information and systems sciences, applied electromagnetics, and microelectronics for its LLC member companies, other commercial companies, and the U.S. government.

Before joining HRL, Bill served in the George W. Bush administration as director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the Department of Commerce. He also served in the Executive Office of the President as senior director for Homeland and National Security and as the assistant director for Space and Aeronautics within the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Earlier in his career, he was the deputy director for the Advanced Technology Office and Chief Scientist for the Tactical Technology Office at DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) and the assistant deputy for technology at the Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office. Bill started his professional career at the Institute for Defense Analyses.

Bill is an elected Fellow of the American Physical Society, an elected Honorary Member of the International Society of Automation, a recipient of the 2008 Navigator Award from the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, and a recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of Tyco Electronics Corporation and TE Connectivity Ltd. Bill received his B.Sc. in physics from MIT and his M.A. and Ph.D. in astronomy from Harvard University.

In an announcement about his joining SRI, Bill expressed admiration: "SRI International is such an accomplished research organization, it's an honor to be selected as its new president and CEO. SRI's mission is timeless and its legacy of innovations peerless. I am looking forward to working with its executive team and R&D staff, and with its clients and partners, to advance SRI's vision to be the premier, independent source of high-value innovations."

Marianne Byerwalter, chairman of the board of SRI, welcomed Bill, saying "I am looking forward to Bill's leadership and contributions as he continues to build the SRI innovation powerhouse."

## Curt Carlson Transitioning to Vice Chairman for Innovation

When Bill Jeffrey becomes SRI president and CEO on September 1, Curt Carlson will become vice chairman for innovation. Earlier this year, Curt had announced his plan to retire from the roles of president and CEO when his successor was selected. With 16 years at the helm, Curt has been SRI's longest-term president and CEO so far. Board chairman Byerwalter expressed the board's appreciation to Curt for his service and accomplishments and noted that "Under Curt's leadership, SRI has grown, expanded, and made a significant impact on the world through its innovative work."

As vice chairman for innovation, Curt will devote more time to business development and innovation initiatives for SRI and help advance innovation best practices. He is also writing a second book about SRI's disciplined approach to innovation.

## SRI Fellows for 2014 Named

Curt Carlson announced that the recipients of the 2014 Fellows Award are **Greg Faris**, program manager in the Materials Research Laboratory, and **Jon Mirsalis**, managing director of SRI Biosciences. The Fellows Award is SRI's highest honor for technical achievement.



**Greg Faris, Ph.D.**, joined SRI in 1988 as a postdoctoral fellow in applied physics. In his productive career, he has focused on laser and optics technology with a host of important applications, including imaging for medical diagnostics, single-cell microfluidics for detecting circulating tumor cells, and use of near-infrared radiation for 3-D detection of biomolecules associated with specific diseases. Greg's research has earned him wide respect with the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. Greg also works closely with undergraduate students performing research at SRI as part of NSF's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. For his strong mentoring abilities, he won SRI's Mimi Award in 2009.

Greg has collaborated with more than 250 investigators at more than 70 universities and national labs worldwide. He holds more than 15 patents and has published several book

chapters and more than 60 papers and abstracts in some of the most recognized journals in his field.



**Jon Mirsalis, Ph.D., DABT** (Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology), has overall responsibility for technical operations and preclinical development activities of SRI Biosciences. He also directs SRI's Toxicology and Pharmacokinetics group, which is the largest contractor of preclinical toxicology studies to

the National Institutes of Health. In his 33 years at SRI, he has been responsible for millions of dollars of funding and leadership of a significant number of staff members. Jon's reputation in the toxicology and drug development communities evokes terms such as "premier technical manager" and "exemplary scientist" from both colleagues and clients.

Jon has personally been involved in the development of more than 50 therapeutics that have entered clinical trials. The world has benefited from literally dozens of disease-fighting drugs thanks to his detailed understanding of toxicological pathways, as well as the circuitous pathways for FDA drug approval. Among his impressive achievements, Jon has taken leadership positions in founding and serving several professional organizations.

Both Jon and Greg have, by different paths, clearly demonstrated the same kinds of significant technical achievements that characterize the SRI Fellows Award.

### Travel-Planner Spin-off Desti Acquired by HERE

In May, the SRI spin-off venture Desti was acquired by HERE, Nokia's mapping company. Desti, the first smart travel planner, uses artificial intelligence and natural language to help travelers find exactly the restaurant, hotel, activity, shop, or attraction they are seeking. It sifts through thousands of online reviews and descriptions to find the best matches by considering the context of each request and making specific queries to the requester. As an example, for someone looking for a restaurant to take business clients, Desti would go through restaurant reviews and descriptions and eliminate the ones that would be more suitable for teenagers or romantic couples. It uses the traveler's preferences for a particular outing or vacation to personalize the recommendation.

"The use of natural language technology to turn textual content into searchable, actionable knowledge is changing vertical search," said Nadav Gur, CEO and founder of Desti. "Desti users have planned hundreds of thousands of trips just by asking for what they want."

Desti, based on technology pioneered in SRI's Artificial Intelligence Center, was spun out of SRI in 2011. Additional investors are Horizons Ventures and Carmel Ventures.

### Latest SRI Spin-off: Kasisto, Virtual Personal Assistant for a Company's Customers



In June, SRI announced the launch of Kasisto, its latest spin-off venture. Kasisto uses intelligent conversation technology to let consumers do complex transactions with companies on mobile devices. Yet again, this is an application of SRI's decades of research and development in artificial intelligence.

SRI's famous spin-off Siri first popularized the idea of conversation with a mobile virtual personal assistant. Kasisto takes such conversation to the next level: Consumers can perform complex tasks, requiring deep domain knowledge and human interaction, on a mobile device. Kasisto's multimodal interface capabilities—speech recognition, natural language understanding and generation, and artificial intelligence reasoning—let consumers easily and quickly access information and perform tasks using voice or text on their smart devices.

The advantage to companies is that they can integrate Kasisto conversational virtual personal assistants into their mobile applications within days or weeks instead of months and at a fraction of the cost of products currently on the market.

Kasisto's first customers are in the financial services industry. The company is leveraging work done with strategic partner BBVA, a global financial services group, which has provided in-depth knowledge of the banking industry, its regulatory requirements, and customer needs.

## SRI Sleep Researchers Identify New Model for Studying Narcolepsy Treatment



Narcolepsy is a chronic neurologic disorder characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness. It is estimated to affect 1 in 2,000 people worldwide. The onset of narcolepsy is typically during

adolescence or later, but diagnosis may take more than a decade; thus, studying the progression of the disease is difficult. The lack of definitive mechanisms to explain what goes awry in the brain's ability to regulate the sleep-wake cycles has consequently yielded drugs that address only the symptoms rather than the underlying causes of narcolepsy.

Researchers in the Center for Neuroscience in SRI Biosciences have developed a mouse model of narcolepsy that mimics the human disorder better than the standard model currently in use. They used this new narcolepsy model alongside a standard model to investigate a novel therapeutic pathway and to identify a promising way of treating narcolepsy.

The SRI Biosciences researchers teamed with colleagues at five institutions in Japan to generate a better model of narcolepsy in humans. The existing model, Ataxin mice, has been used for more than 10 years. An important limitation of it is that the Ataxin mice are born with the deficiency of the neurotransmitter hypocretin that has been implicated in causing narcolepsy, whereas the onset of human narcolepsy typically occurs after puberty. The research team genetically engineered a mouse in which the hypocretin neurons could be selectively eliminated at any age by removal of an antibiotic in the mouse food. In the new "DTA" model, degeneration of hypocretin neurons can be initiated after puberty, causing the mice to exhibit the two major symptoms of narcolepsy: excessive daytime sleepiness and cataplexy, the brief loss of muscle tone experienced by most narcoleptics.

The research team used its new DTA model and the Ataxin model to compare gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and R-baclofen. Sodium oxybate, the sodium salt of GHB, was approved by the FDA in 2002 as the only therapeutic for narcolepsy that simultaneously alleviates cataplexy, excessive daytime sleepiness, and nocturnal sleep disruption. However, it remains unclear how this drug exerts its beneficial effects. It was suspected that GHB works by affecting brain cells that respond to a neurotransmitter known as

gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which primarily functions to inhibit excitability and regulate muscle tone. To study the mechanism of action of GHB, SRI Biosciences' researchers tested R-baclofen, which blocks the GABA receptors suspected to be the target of GHB. Baclofen has been available for more than 50 years and is used to treat muscle spasticity. It is a chemical compound that exists as a mixture of two isomers, designated R and S.

The research team found that R-baclofen promoted sleep time and longer bouts of wakefulness during the appropriate times for mice and also suppressed cataplexy. GHB modestly reduced cataplexy and increased sleep intensity but did not improve other symptoms of narcolepsy to the extent that R-baclofen did.

Although baclofen is already known to be safe for use in humans, the dose that is effective for spasticity may be different from the dose of R-baclofen that has the potential to treat narcolepsy. The next step is to perform a study in narcoleptic patients to determine its potential for treatment of human narcolepsy.

## SRI's Biometric Products Being Used in the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Oman

SRI and emaratech have entered into a reseller agreement to expand the use of SRI's biometrics in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, and Oman. emaratech is the leading information technology solutions provider and management consulting company for commercial and government entities throughout the UAE and Jordan. As a result of this strategic relationship, the Iris on the Move® (IOM) biometric product line is now available for airport security, border patrol, and a broad range of related security applications in the region.



*Mark Clifton, vice president of SRI's Products and Services Division (left), shakes hands with Thani Alzaffin, emaratech director general.*

SRI's IOM biometric systems combine the accuracy of iris recognition with quick, convenient solutions for secure access control and identity authentication. Unlike other biometric readers that require users to stop or to position their eyes close to a camera, IOM products allow people to simply glance and go. The systems can be operated indoors and outdoors under all lighting conditions. Thus, they are optimally suited for airports, border patrol, and similar security applications.

### “Blended Learning”: Promise and Concerns

Blended learning—the combination of teacher-led and online instruction—may improve education by personalizing learning for students and freeing teachers to help all students develop higher level learning skills. But SRI researchers have found that successful implementation of blended learning requires adequate infrastructure and reliable technology in the school, quality online content, and changes in classroom management practices.

With funding from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, SRI Education researchers studied blended learning models during the 2011-12 school year in five charter management organizations and 12 schools in California and Louisiana. Their report details findings in four areas:

- Elements of online instruction design—To integrate online instruction into the classroom curriculum, teachers needed to be able to assign individual modules of the online course. The quality of online programs varied by subject, and several factors limited teachers' use of data from online systems to make good instructional decisions.
- Perceived benefits to teaching and learning—With blended learning models, students could personalize learning through self-paced online programs that adapted instructional content to their needs, and teachers could assign some students online modules while concentrating on small-group instruction for students with greater academic needs.
- Student productivity—Strong classroom management practices and single sign-on procedures were critical for ensuring student productivity with online programs, particularly with younger children.
- Infrastructure and technology—Unreliable Internet connectivity, inadequate bandwidth, and technical problems with online programs affected the use of blended learning to some extent in all schools participating in the research.

The report also outlines implications for practice and recommendations for future research. As schools gain more experience and continue to evolve their blended learning, best practices are emerging. Several for educators to consider are the following:

- Self-directed learning habits, such as setting weekly goals, must be established because they are crucial for students to fully benefit from blended learning.
- For the most productive use of instructional time, routines must be established to help students efficiently transition between instructor-led and online learning.
- Having online learning coordinators, rather than administrators or teachers, assume the logistical burdens of implementation is critical to district- and school-wide adoptions of blended learning.
- Administrators and teachers need to be prepared to respond to technology glitches by enlisting on-site IT support and having alternative instructional plans ready when online access is unavailable.

SRI's research revealed that there is no single blended learning solution that works for all schools. With blended learning still in the early stages, this is a time of experimentation and development.

### SRI a Sponsor of Tech Museum of Innovation Field Trips for Students

SRI is a sponsor of The Tech Museum's Field Trip Opportunities program for Title I schools, which receive federal funding to improve academic achievement. The program makes it possible for students to visit The Tech in San Jose for free and to benefit from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Students explore the museum's exhibits, view an IMAX science film, and participate in hands-on labs. SRI's sponsorship has enabled hundreds of students from elementary schools in Menlo Park to visit The Tech.



*Students from Garfield Elementary experienced the museum's STEM exhibits and labs.*

**New Food Recognition Technology Lets Devices See What’s on Your Plate—To Help You Decide Whether to Eat It**

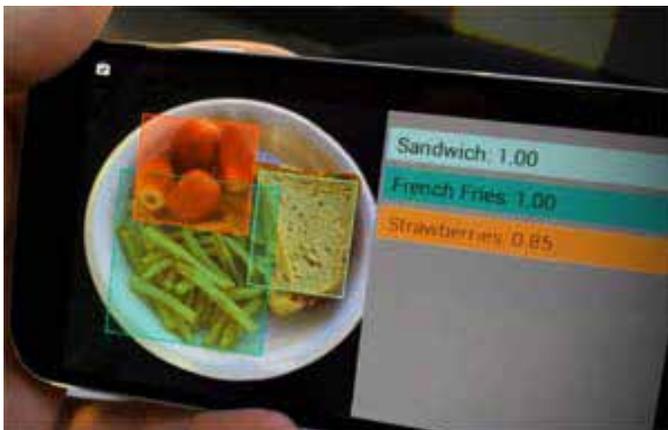
By Ajay Divakaran



Computer vision—emulation of the human visual system—is enabling groundbreaking advances that allow computers to act and react like humans. Applications for computer vision range from monitoring activities at crowded events, to warning drivers of imminent danger, to self-steered robots that can navigate objects easily.

For decades, SRI’s computer vision researchers have pioneered development of technologies that enable systems to see, understand, and react to information captured through sensors. These capabilities, already widely used in security and defense applications, and are now migrating to consumer applications in smart phones, video games, and Internet image search.

Computer vision uses cameras and processors to play the roles of eye and brain. Our recent work in food recognition uses vision technology to record and quantify food items to help people make more informed eating decisions.



*Once the image of your plate is captured, food items are identified and portions are calculated.*

Using images captured on a camera-enabled device such as a phone or tablet, our patented technology can generate information about the type of food, quantify the portion, and estimate its nutritional value. The image classifiers are trained to identify and categorize individual food items on a plate from a single image. If multiple images are taken, a volume estimate is calculated to provide an approximation of nutritional information. We also employ contextual clues, such as location, to incorporate data from menus of restaurants in which the image was taken to improve the estimation of calories.



*A nutrition label is generated from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-issued tables.*

Among the growing number of mobile apps and Internet-enabled devices targeting consumer health and fitness, computer vision technology can play an important role by seeing what you are consuming and providing accurate estimates of portions and nutritional value. SRI’s technology may be licensed for use in commercial products.

Food recognition is just one of SRI’s many technologies that are revolutionizing how computers are used to see, understand, and react to the environment around us.

*SRI Blog post, used with permission of SRI International.*

## SRI International Sits on Storied Land

*A History Note by Bob Schwaar*

Almost since its beginning, SRI has enjoyed a large, lovely site in the center of Menlo Park. But SRI's stewardship of this land is only the latest chapter in its history. Here, we look briefly at the important changes in the property's ownership and use.

The history of land transfers in this area goes back to the time when the Spanish undertook the colonization of Alta California. Beginning in 1784, they took over large swaths of land from the Native Americans. The Spanish divided this land into ranchos that were granted as marks of royal favor or simply sold to enterprising citizens of Alta California. Nearly one-third of today's San Mateo County is former Spanish ranchos. The oldest and largest was the Rancho de las Pulgas, stretching for 35,240 acres—some 55 square miles—north of San Francisquito Creek, all the way to San Mateo Creek in present-day Belmont. It stretched from San Francisco Bay up into the foothills. It dates from 1795, when Diego de Borica, governor of California, granted title to Jose Dario Arguello, the founder of Los Angeles, and his son Luis Antonio Arguello. It was the first land grant north of Monterey.

The Arguellos grazed cattle on the land for many years. It became part of the United States after the Mexican-American War (1848) and was included in the new State of California when California entered the Union in 1850. Ownership of the land was disputed among Arguello descendants. Boundaries were not always clear, and borders of adjacent ranchos sometimes overlapped. The U.S. Land Commission was established in 1851 to rule on all titles; it upheld Arguello's claims in 1853, but litigation ensued and dragged on. It took an Act of Congress in 1878 to finally resolve all these claims.

In 1854, Dennis J. Oliver and his brother-in-law, D. C. McGlynn, purchased a 1,700-acre parcel of the Rancho de las Pulgas along El Camino Real. These two Irish immigrants from Menlough, near Galway, named it Menlo Park.

### William E. Barron

The San Francisco-to-San Jose railroad reached Menlo Park in 1863. Later in the 1860s, businessman William E. Barron acquired a 280-acre parcel of the Rancho de las Pulgas on the east side of the railroad tracks. (This parcel includes the piece where SRI is now.) Barron vacationed here and hoped

the climate would help restore his failing health. Here he built one of the first stately homes in the area. After his death in 1871, the estate passed to Milton Latham.

### William E. Barron

William Eustace Barron, born in Spain in 1822, lived mostly in Mexico until 1850, when he moved to San Francisco to represent Barron Forbes & Company's interest in the New Almaden Quicksilver mine, which it had acquired in late 1846.

New Almaden was named after the greatest quicksilver-producing mine in the world, located in Almaden, Spain. As California's gold and silver mining industries grew, so did the need and demand for quicksilver (mercury). Living up to its name, New Almaden, south of San Jose, would eventually become the second largest quicksilver mine in the world.

Barron became the major player in the syndicate that controlled the New Almaden Mine between 1847 and 1863. He also became a commission merchant in San Francisco and, in partnership with James Bolton, formed the firm of Bolton, Barron & Company. The firm is listed in the San Francisco City Directory of 1852. They built an office building at Montgomery and Merchant streets. But a rift developed between the business partners, and Barron bought Bolton out. He reorganized the company as Barron & Co., taking in wealthy banker Thomas Bell as 25 percent partner. Barron & Co. is listed in the 1869 San Francisco Directory at 606 Stockton.

The 1870 census lists Barron as living in the stately home on his Menlo Park estate with Thomas Bell and with a valet, a kitchen man, a cook, and a steward. Apparently Barron never married.

Barron died at age 49 on October 25, 1871, in San Francisco. His funeral was said to be the largest San Francisco had seen to that date. He is now buried in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Colma, established in 1887. He is remembered today in Barron Park, now a part of Palo Alto.

### Milton Latham

In 1872, Milton Latham, former congressman and U.S. Senator, bought Barron's estate for \$75,000 and renamed it Thurlow Lodge. He began renovating the 50-room Menlo

Park mansion as a gift to his bride, only to have the building burn down before completion. Nevertheless, it was entirely rebuilt and completed in 1873. The vast landscaped grounds included a stable that accommodated 32 carriages. The Latham estate with its 50-room, richly decorated mansion was considered the finest on the San Francisco Peninsula—perhaps in California (see photo). Latham had spent most of the Civil War in France and brought back many fine outdoor fountains that he placed around the property. We can only speculate on the grand parties and gala balls that may have taken place in the mansion at Thurlow Lodge.



*This photograph of the mansion at Thurlow Lodge appears in Menlo Park Beyond the Gate. Before it was destroyed in the early 1940s, the mansion was Menlo Park's most imposing building.*

In 1874, Latham commissioned noted Yosemite photographer Carleton Watkins to capture the estate with his “Mammoth Camera,” which used large (18” by 22”) glass plate negatives. Watkins produced two presentation albums of full-size prints; copies still exist today.

After Latham's death in 1882, the estate was sold to the widow of Mark Hopkins.

#### Milton Latham

Milton Latham (1827–1882) was an important early Californian. He served a term in Congress from 1853 to 1855. In 1859, he was elected governor of California; he served only five days and was then chosen to replace Senator David Broderick, who was killed in a famous duel with former California Supreme Court Justice David Terry. Terry had opposed Broderick's abolitionist views. It is also noteworthy that Latham was a southern Democrat and, before the Civil War, advocated

that California secede from the Union and form an independent Pacific Republic.

Latham did not enjoy living at Thurlow Lodge for long. He lost his fortune in the Depression of 1875. Latham moved to New York City in 1879 to become president of the New York Mining and Stock Exchange. He died, bankrupt, in New York three years later at age 54.

#### The Hopkins Era

In 1882, the Latham estate sold the property to Mrs. Mark Hopkins, the widow of the railroad baron. Her son, Timothy, and his bride, Mary, spent summers there. The 280-acre estate, renamed Sherwood Hall, stretched from San Francisquito Creek to Ravenswood Avenue, and from the railroad tracks to Middlefield Road. Mrs. Hopkins had all the white buildings painted green with red trim after seeing a similar look on a trip to Europe. It quickly became apparent that the new colors did not suit the property, but it was too costly to have everything repainted.

In 1888, Mrs. Hopkins presented the estate to the young couple as a belated wedding gift. In the 1890s, Timothy developed a large plant nursery operation on the estate.

#### Timothy Hopkins

Born in 1859 of Irish immigrants, Timothy Nolan, age 3, accompanied his widowed mother when she found work in the Sacramento home of Mark Hopkins, the railroad baron who was a partner and neighbor of Leland Stanford. The young Timothy was treated as a member of the family by the childless Hopkins couple and was known by the Stanfords as well. When Mark Hopkins died in 1879, Timothy, then 20, began to take an active role in managing the Hopkins' financial affairs. Mrs. Mark Hopkins formally adopted him in 1879.

Timothy Hopkins inherited a large share of Mark Hopkins' wealth. He was an officer of the Central Pacific and later Southern Pacific railroads, eventually becoming treasurer. He also oversaw the vast Hopkins holdings until his adoptive mother married an interior decorator 22 years her junior in 1887.

In 1882, Timothy married Mary Kellogg Crittenden, the niece of his adoptive mother. In 1884, his friends Leland and Jane Stanford suffered the loss of their only child,

Leland Stanford, Jr. When Stanford University was established in his memory, Hopkins became one of the original trustees and a generous benefactor.

In the early 1890s, with Leland Stanford's financial assistance, Hopkins acquired the Seale Tract, south of San Francisquito Creek in Santa Clara County. He subdivided it, laid out and named the streets, and sold lots in what became known as Old Palo Alto. At Stanford's request, he wrote a liquor sales ban into the deeds. For these efforts, Timothy Hopkins became known as the Father of Palo Alto.

In the 1906 earthquake, the Sherwood Hall mansion suffered so much damage that it was no longer habitable. Thereafter, Timothy and Mary used the estate's Gatehouse as their summer residence. The mansion was never occupied again.

Timothy Hopkins died in 1936, and his will left the estate to Stanford University. After Mary Kellogg Hopkins' death in 1941, an auction was held to sell off the contents of the Sherwood Hall mansion. While local bidders purchased various items, the bulk of them, as well as the mansion itself, were bought as is by Universal Pictures in Hollywood. The studio used the furniture as movie props.

In 1942, Universal Pictures had all the estate buildings dismantled except for the Gatehouse and its gate. The wood was used to build film sets at a time when wood was scarce because of rationing during World War II.

The United States Army leased the Gatehouse to use as officers' quarters during World War II. Later, it was leased as a residence until 1968, when it was purchased by the City of Menlo Park and converted to the museum that stands on Ravenswood Avenue today.

### **Dibble Army Hospital, Student Housing, SRI**

Anticipating a wave of wounded soldiers from the Pacific Theater of Operations in World War II, the U.S. War Department needed another hospital to supplement Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco. For this purpose, it bought the 140-acre estate from Stanford University on January 3, 1943. (It is not clear where the other 140 acres went. Presumably, they had been sold to developers by that time.)

The site was converted to a veterans' hospital designed with 1,700 beds. Construction began in June 1943. Within two

months, 62 buildings were ready on 127 acres. Some 115 buildings had been constructed on the site by the end of 1943.

Originally, the post was named Palo Alto General Hospital, but it was soon renamed Dibble General Hospital to honor Colonel John Dibble, recently deceased.

#### **Colonel John Dibble**

John Dibble was born in New Jersey in 1890. He grew up in Camden, New Jersey, and studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. After interning at Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1917 and trained as a flight surgeon. He went on to serve in Germany with the Army of Occupation after World War I and became a career soldier. He served in various posts throughout the 1920s and 1930s, including a stint in the Philippines. Colonel Dibble was named Surgeon of the Third Army just after Pearl Harbor.

Colonel Dibble was killed with 16 others when their transport plane crashed into the Pacific on February 7, 1943. Survivors included his son, West Point graduate Captain John Dibble, then serving at Fort Hood, Texas, and a daughter, Mrs. John Corbey, whose husband was a Major in the Army.

Menlo Park's population of about 4,000 soared when the new hospital was built. Dr. Bernard Silber was working at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco when he was transferred to Dibble Hospital. But first, he had to ask four or five people where Menlo Park was. "It was a quiet, pleasant place," he recalled, noting that there were no stores yet on Santa Cruz Avenue except at the corner of El Camino Real.

The first combat wounded arrived in February 1944; more came at the end of March. A railroad spur named the General Dibble Railroad led directly onto the property to facilitate patient transfer. On June 10, 1944, 458 wounded arrived, mostly from the South Pacific.

It is said that Dibble was the first hospital in the country to perform plastic surgery on the war wounded. Between 1943 and 1946, Dibble also developed specialized expertise in the rehabilitation of the blind and in neuropsychiatry and orthopedics. At its peak, it had 800 employees and 3,600 beds.

Some 1,400 trees and 2,600 shrubs were planted on the grounds. Included on the site were services needed for a small village: a post office, a bank, and a commissary. Amenities included a theater, restaurant, barbershop, library, and bowling alley.

According to a 1945 aerial photo, the main entrance to the complex faced Middlefield Road (now building 101). Seven two-story buildings were built parallel to Middlefield Road, probably mostly for administrative purposes. Just to the west were four long rows of single-story barracks—up to 16 in a row—aligned perpendicular to Middlefield and connected to each other with corridors. The layout looked like fish bones from the air. Old-timers at SRI remember large numbers of these buildings, gradually replaced over the years, until only a few now remain.



*Dibble Army Hospital, SRI's future site ~1946  
(Source: Donald L. Nielson, A Heritage of Innovation: SRI's First Half Century, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA, 2004. Used by permission.)*

Hostilities in World War II ended in August 1945. In September 1945, the site officially became part of Menlo Park. In mid-1946, Dibble General Hospital closed; the last issue of the official newsletter, *Dibble Data*, appeared June 1, 1946. Some 16,000 patients had been treated there.

On July 31, 1946, the General Services Administration transferred 132 acres to the Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA). On May 7, 1947, FPHA turned over some 42 acres to the War Assets Administration, which quitclaimed it over the next year to various owners. The remaining 90 acres were to become student housing.

**Stanford Student Housing**

By the mid-1940s returning soldiers were swelling the student body of Stanford University, helping to bring the undergraduate enrollment from about 3,700 in 1945 to 8,200 in 1947. Campus construction to relieve the congestion was impeded by continuing material shortages. Realizing there simply was no room on campus for so many students, the university snatched up the Dibble Hospital site in Menlo Park. On March 15, 1946, it was renamed Stanford Village. It provided 300 apartments for married students, as well as 1,500 dorm beds. Students could live there for about half the cost of living on campus.

From 1946 until 1964, when the last ones left, some 10,000 students had called Stanford Village home.

**Stanford Research Institute**

When it began operations in 1946, SRI was located in three offices on the Stanford campus. The small staff moved into the first floor of Building 100 on May 22, 1947. They were surrounded on three sides by family housing. As the staff grew, SRI was able to rent and occupy building after building, slowly displacing the students.

The ownership of the 90-acre parcel still remained with the Federal Public Housing Authority. In 1949, Menlo Park mayor Charles Burgess arranged the purchase of a 28-acre slice of the hospital grounds for city government facilities. In April 1950, the university asked FPHA to sell the property back to it, and a sale was approved in May 1953. But the price proved a sticking point. Stanford had expected the land to be transferred at FPHA's 1943 cost, about \$1,000 per acre. But the current market value had risen to about 20 times that. It took until late July 1955 to reach an agreement. As soon as Stanford had acquired the 30-acre parcel, it turned around and sold it to SRI.

There have been several subsequent subdivisions of the former Dibble General Hospital site. The site is currently occupied by SRI, the City of Menlo Park, the U.S. Geological Survey, the West Bay Sanitary District, the First Church of Christ Scientist, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a number of private owners.

\* \* \* \* \*

From its early life as a Spanish rancho more than 200 years ago, the ground on which SRI stands has indeed been storied land.

## UK Alumni Visit the *Cutty Sark* at Greenwich

By David Gibby

The 212-foot-long *Cutty Sark* was the greatest and fastest Tea Clipper Ship ever. Built in 1869, this beautiful ship could carry 1,450 tons of tea at an average speed of more than 17 knots. However, 1869 was also the year the Suez Canal was opened, giving steamships a much shorter route to China and with it faster journey times, so by 1883 the *Cutty Sark* was also used to transport wool from Australia to Britain (once in the record time of just 73 days) and coal from Australia to China. By 1895, even these journey times were not fast enough for her to remain profitable, so her owners decided to sell her. After a few years as a Portuguese cargo ship, the *Cutty Sark* returned to London as a cadet training ship and in 1954 was put on public display at Greenwich.



In 2007, while the ship was undergoing an extensive renovation, a fire broke out, causing serious damage. Fortunately, most of original timbers and equipment had been removed for the renovation, so when she was “reopened” to the public in April 2012, after a £50 million restoration project, nearly 90% of the fabric and fittings visible on the refurbished *Cutty Sark* belonged to the original 143-year-old clipper.

Almost exactly two years later, on Sunday, April 6, we took a River Bus trip from London’s Embankment down to Greenwich to see her for ourselves. Everyone agreed that the ship had been wonderfully restored and that the exhibits gave a very good idea of what life was like on board. We were fortunate in being there when the “captain” (a knowledgeable actor) arrived and gave a very entertaining guided tour—and even got us to sing a sea shanty! A compilation of three YouTube videos of the *Cutty Sark* and its exhibits can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/pkt94fm>.

After our visit, we had a brisk walk past the National Maritime Museum and other historic buildings, to the Plume of Feathers pub, where we had a very convivial lunch.



*In the photo are (left to right) Sally Sturcke, Nick Collin, David Gibby, Anne Saunders, Bob Morgen, Jeanette Gibby, and Nick Sturcke. Gia Campari took the photo.*

Among the several who were unable to attend because of prior travel arrangements were Jacques Pezier and Robert Perrin, who were in India and Singapore, respectively.

## Taxi Tales

*In this issue, Peter Weissshuhn takes us to Stuttgart and tells a tale truly about a taxi.*

### Stuttgart

By Peter Weissshuhn

It is not often that one meets a woman taxi driver, but it did happen to me in Stuttgart. Those unfamiliar with Germany need to understand that the taxi business there is highly regulated, as is most everything else. All taxis must be painted in the same cream shade especially developed for taxis and not available for other vehicles. Although the make of car is not prescribed by law, it might as well be for German taxis are virtually all Mercedes. Exceptions are tolerated in Munich, the home of BMW, and in Wolfsburg, the Volkswagen capital. Over the years, the attacks of these two German marques, not to mention the foreigners, on fortress Mercedes have managed to dent its defences only slightly and at great cost.

Against this background, the last thing I expected in Stuttgart, the headquarters of Mercedes, was to find myself in a Citroën

taxi, but I did. It was the largest model in Citroën's range, more spacious in the back and with softer seats than other German taxis. It was owned and driven by a formidable lady who clearly enjoyed her public defiance of the status quo. I was curious as to the reactions she got from the public and fellow drivers. As to the public, she explained, there were people of a certain age who refused anything but a Merc. But there were others, the younger ones, who appreciated her offering an alternative—and who might have longed to defy some of the social sanctions they had to put up with.

Regarding the other drivers, they accepted her as a somewhat eccentric colleague. But, she added, "You have no idea how many offers I have had from Mercedes dealers to take my car off the road in return for a free Merc." However, she had remained steadfast, thereby providing me with this tale.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### 2014 Annual SRI Alumni Reunion in Menlo Park: September 18

SRI Alumni Association members who will be in the Bay Area on September 18 are encouraged to come to the annual reunion. It will be held in the International Building from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. You will hear about the state of SRI from one of the institute's officers, and Roy Kornbluh, a principal research engineer in the Engineering & Systems Group, will describe his research. You can count on sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, excellent drinks, delightful conversation, and plenty of door prizes.

The charge is \$25 for each attendee. Please complete the sign-up sheet and return it with your check by September 12. An invitation to the 2014 Annual SRI Alumni Reunion and sign-up sheet are enclosed with the printed copies of the newsletter; invitations will be mailed to those who receive the newsletter electronically. You may also print copies of the sign-up form from the alumni website.

### Alumni Association Membership Renewals Due by October 15

It's almost time to renew your SRI Alumni Association membership for 2015. Membership renewal forms will be mailed to association members on September 2, 2014. The fee is \$20 per member, due by October 15, 2014. All members who renew by mid-November will be included in the 2015 Alumni Directory, which will be issued in December.

### Directory Addendum

The enclosed directory addendum (covering the period April 3, 2014, to August 3, 2014) contains new members and corrections. Please add it to your 2014 Directory.



The SRI Alumni Association welcomes new members:

David Crosley  
Pallavi Shah

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

CREDIT UNION NEWS

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### William “Brian” Bedwell

Brian Bedwell, a senior chemical engineer in the Materials Research Laboratory (MRL) of the Physical Sciences Division, died at Stanford Hospital on April 17, 2014, after suffering a hemorrhagic stroke while driving to work on April 14. He was 63 years old.

Brian came to SRI in 2009 with an impressive technical background from Honeywell, where he led the development of thin dielectric films for the semiconductor industry. At SRI, he made an immediate impact by participating in an MRL project to develop fuel cells. One of his signature research efforts focused on improving ways to purify drinking water by applying photoelectrochemistry techniques that use solar radiation. Brian was also interested in improving biomedical procedures, such as photochemical techniques to fight off infections in catheters. He led a large project in MRL to recover biofuels from algae that spanned the complete development of the technology—from growing algae to extracting components to helping the customer design a pilot plant for the next scale of development.

Brian’s colleagues recall his way of bringing enthusiasm and passion to every project in which he was involved. He loved to take on new and challenging projects, working collaboratively with colleagues across the institute and generously sharing his knowledge and expertise. Many of his coworkers benefited from his enormous intellectual curiosity and willingness to teach and mentor. Ever an optimist, Brian believed strongly in his work and its potential to change the world. One of his colleagues remembers his extraordinary dedication and how he worked tirelessly to make a nanoparticle suspension for TV screens. When asked how his projects were going, Brian often noted that he felt like a kid playing with toys (MRL’s scientific equipment). Another colleague said, “In retrospect, I wish he had been a bit less intense, given his delicate health, but he did not know another way to approach life.”

*Based on an obituary written by Jeanie Graham.*

### Christina Dunton\*

Christina Dunton, a former SRI staff member, died on February 26, 2014, at the home of her family in Phoenix, Arizona, where she had been undergoing treatments for cancer. She was 73 years old.

Born in Sweden, Christina traveled around Europe and Turkey as a young adult and then moved to the United States in the late 1960s. She joined SRI in 1978 and retired as travel administrator in 2002. She and her husband, Richard, retired to Auburn, California, where they participated enthusiastically in family and social gatherings, as well as several civic organizations.

Christina is survived by her sister, Charlotte; nieces Malin, Petronella, and Karin; nephew Per in Sweden; and a large extended stepfamily.

### Donald Fiske



Don Fiske, a former vice president at SRI, died at home in Monterey on April 19, 2014, at age 84.

Born in North Dakota, Don attended high school and college in Lincoln, Nebraska, earning his B.Sc. at the University of Nebraska. After graduating, he joined the Army and became a second lieutenant, serving as a company commander at Fort Ord on Monterey Bay from 1952 to 1954, when he returned to civilian life. He then attended UC Berkeley, where he received an MBA in 1956. His professional career began with management positions at General Electric and in the banking industry, and he joined SRI in 1969. For most of his career at SRI he headed the International Management and Economics Group (IMEG) as vice president; when he left SRI in 1984, he was senior vice president of planning and development in the President’s Office. After SRI, he became president of AT Kearney Technology and later volunteered with the International Executive Service Corps to do management consulting in Prague and in Kyrgyzstan.

Don is survived by his children, Carey, Barrie, Kim, and Todd; grandchildren Brendan, Shannon, Brien, Erin, Ryan, Morgan, Taylor, Cortney, Kate, Nancy, Ruth, and Teddy; great-grandchildren Caden and Ronan; brother Bob; sister Pamela; and countless dear friends around the world.

**Joyce Garbutt\***

Joyce Garbutt, a former SRI staff member, died on June 13, 2014.

Joyce joined SRI in 1965 and worked as an administrative assistant in Engineering until she retired in 1993. She enjoyed singing in a group that performed around SRI, as well as performing with the Peninsula Clef Hangers, a women's chorus that provides concerts for seniors at retirement centers and nursing homes. She also volunteered with the Community Committee for International Students at Stanford, helping students and professors with English and learning American customs. In addition to being a talented singer, Joyce was a wonderful cook, and she loved tending her flowers and her cat, Mort.

**John Guagliardo\***

John Guagliardo, a former engineering staff member at SRI, died on March 26, 2014, at age 68.

John was a senior research engineer in the Electromagnetic Sciences Lab from 1982 to 1986. He held a doctorate in chemistry from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and pioneered the development of LIDAR research and remote sensing. At SRI, he worked on both LIDAR and underwater optics and sensing. John was a lifelong astronomer who built his own telescopes. When he and his wife, Elaine (also a former SRI employee), retired to their home state of Louisiana, they chose a town close enough to the amenities of a major city, but far enough away to be dark at night so John could devote his retirement to searching the skies. John spent many years offering his passionate astronomical expertise to public instruction at both the Lick Observatory in San Jose and more recently at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory in Livingston, Louisiana.

John is survived by his wife, Elaine, daughter Elizabeth, and granddaughter Julia.

*Based on an obituary written by Jeff Casper.*

**Dale Perry Masher**

Dale Masher, a former research engineer at SRI, died at home in Los Altos on March 30, 2014, after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 84 years old.

Born in Bedford, Indiana, Dale received an A.B. magna cum laude in engineering science and applied physics from Harvard College in 1951 and a master's degree in electrical engineering from MIT in 1953. After graduation, he did research at Bell Telephone Laboratories until he was drafted in 1955. He joined SRI as a research engineer in 1957, after being discharged from the Army. During his 34-year career at SRI, he received numerous patents on a wide variety of electrical and electronic devices. When he left SRI in 1991, he was a principal engineer in the Advanced Development Division.

Dale is survived by his wife, Mary Ann "Penny" Robertson; children Kerry, Laury, and Duane; and seven grandchildren and four great-granddaughters. He was also "Grandpa Dale" to Penny's two grandchildren.

**Helmut Moessner**

It was just learned that Helmut Moessner died recently. He worked at SRI as an engineering associate from 1968 until his retirement in 2001. He was a well-loved and respected staff member and mentored many people working with him.

**Alan Palmer**

Alan Palmer, a former epidemiologist at SRI, died at home in Half Moon Bay, of congestive heart failure, on April 9, 2014.

Born in England, Alan joined the Royal Air Force after finishing school and was assigned to NATO in Paris as a medic. After three years of service, he had the opportunity to come to the United States, and he arrived in San Francisco in 1957. After taking classes at San Francisco State University, working as an ambulance driver, working at St. Joseph's Hospital in San Francisco, and obtaining his U.S. citizenship, he joined the U.S. Public Health Service. While on assignment in Salt Lake City, Alan obtained a doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Utah. He joined

SRI in 1976, serving for five years as a senior epidemiologist in the Center for Community Health Studies. After leaving SRI, he and his wife, Adora, established a spirometry training business. In retirement, he remained involved in family and local community activities in Half Moon Bay, including Cameron's, a British pub owned by his son.

Alan's desire to have a celebration of life with him in attendance was fulfilled on March 28 at Mariners Church. His medical team made sure he could come home for the event. He saw old friends who got to tell him in person how much he meant to them. A bagpiper strolled the grounds, and his favorite tulips covered the stage. Afterward, many went to the pub, where Alan raised his last glass among family and friends.

Alan is survived by his wife, Adora; children Cameron, Kevin, and Kendra; and grandchildren Kayla, Kennedy, Charlotte, Cassidy, Kimberly, Colton, Kyle, Kamy, and Coley.

### Robert Riemenschneider



Robert Riemenschneider, a former SRI staff member, died suddenly on July 9, 2014, at age 62.

Born in Illinois, Bob graduated from Miami University in Ohio and received an M.A. in mathematics from UC Berkeley. He worked at SRI as a senior software engineer from 1991 to 2009. After leaving SRI, he worked for Starview in San Jose, a software firm specializing in analysis of big data. He also was an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University, where he taught logic and programming architecture for many years.

Bob's great passion was music. He loved the Beatles, his Gibson guitars, classes at the Fur Peace Ranch in Ohio, and the music of the Reverend Gary Davis. His favorite

times were those when he performed with his wife, Anne, as The Warblers. Together they loved spending time with their friends at South Bay Folks, City Espresso, and annual Gibson Homecoming gatherings.



Bob is survived by his wife, Anne; sisters Anne and Susan; brothers Richard and John; and nieces and nephews Kevin, Bryan, Caitlin, Lindy, Kelsie, Justin, Caylor, Quinn, and Anna.

### William Lee Ruggels\*

Lee Ruggels, a former management consultant at SRI, died in Santa Rosa, California, on January 20, 2014, at age 79.

Born and raised in Kansas, Lee earned a B.A. in journalism and an M.A. in agricultural economics from Kansas State University. After serving for four years in the Air Force, he received a Ph.D. in communications from Stanford. After teaching journalism at the University of Washington for five years, Lee joined SRI as an international management consultant. His contract work focused on his expertise in survey research, including use of the Lifestyle Survey, which he developed. Among his clients were the governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Norway, as well as British Telecom, Japanese automotive companies, and the State of Hawaii. He retired from SRI in 1995.

Lee is survived by Sigrid ("Susie"), his wife of 50 years; children Scott, Michelle, and Craig; grandchildren Ashlee, Olivia, Landon, Margaret, Liam, and Elliot; and sister Sandra.

### Ralph Toms

Ralph Toms, a former mathematician at SRI, died at home in Tracy, California, on January 17, 2014, of congestive heart failure and a stroke. He was 78 years old.

Ralph grew up in Cottonwood, California, graduating from nearby Anderson High School in 1953. He received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Oregon State University in 1973.

During his career, he worked on both public and classified projects involving the development of efficient computer algorithms and simulations for employers including Boeing, General Electric, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He joined SRI in 1996 as a senior technical advisor in the Engineering and Systems Group. In addition to continuing to make significant contributions to the fields of modeling and simulation, Ralph undertook the development and implementation of methods for representing and interchanging complex spatial data for environmental simulations. His accomplishments became the cornerstone of many applications that depend on efficient representation and processing of environmental and spatial variables. He retired from SRI in 2013.

Ralph's passion was reducing complex mathematical functions to simple and efficient solutions. He held several patents and published academic papers from the 1960s until the 2000s. In 2002, his work was recognized at an industry conference with an award for outstanding contributions and achievements in environmental technology.

Ralph is survived by Gwendolyn, his wife of 56 years; children Andrew, Alice, Mary, Jenny, and Danny; grandchildren Shariann, Spencer, and Katelin; and great-granddaughter Angeleve.

*Thanks to John Shockley for information on Ralph's work at SRI.*

At press time we learned of the recent deaths of former SRI staff members Sherry Dyce Barba\* and John P. Carrico. Their notices will appear in the December issue of the newsletter.

### Ian Wilson\*



Ian Wilson, a former management consultant and futurist at SRI, died at his home in San Rafael on April 28, 2014, at age 90.

Born in England, Ian enrolled at St. John's College, Oxford, seeking a degree in history, classics, and philosophy. His studies were interrupted by World War II, when he enlisted in the British Army's Signal Corps. He was wounded at the invasion of Normandy when he climbed a tree to signal a message to troops. After his military service, he completed his studies at Oxford, receiving an M.A. degree, and began a career as an organization and methods consultant. In 1951, Ian married Page Hedden, an American woman from Westport, Connecticut. The new family moved to Westport in 1954, and Ian joined General Electric in New York, where he worked for 25 years in strategic planning and pioneered the field of corporate futures studies. After he and Page divorced, Ian moved to California and joined SRI as a senior management consultant in the Technology Management Group in 1980. At SRI, he continued to apply his internationally recognized expertise in scenario planning and futures research to numerous projects. After leaving SRI in 1993, he continued doing research, writing, and consulting as the principal of Wolf Enterprises.

Ian is survived by Page; daughters Rebecca, Dori, Holly, and Alexandra; stepdaughters Stacey, Shelby, and Sarah; and 15 grandchildren.

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\*Member of the SRI Alumni Association

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