



**alumni  
association**

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## **APRIL 2002 NEWSLETTER**

### **FROM THE DESK OF GEORGE ABRAHAMSON**

The 2002 Directory was mailed to all members and to SRI senior managers in February. It has proved to be very useful for finding colleagues and locating persons who used to work for SRI. The directory is the work of several people: Don Cone (data base and mailing labels), Ann MacKenzie (cover design), and Joyce Berry (printing coordinator). We thank these folks for their dedication and good work!

The Spring reunion will be held this year on May 9. We had several complaints at previous reunions that the worms in the oak trees in SRI's Oak Park were a problem. This year we will meet in the patio area between Bldgs 100 and 108 at noon. As before, we bring our own lunches; soft drinks are provided (paid for by contributions). Please plan to attend if you are in the area.

Only a few comments were received on whether the Fall Reunion should be held each year or in alternate years. The views expressed favored having it each year, so we will continue to hold it each year. The 2002 reunion will be on Thursday, October 3, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.

We hope to have a good turnout. This year we will have a no-host bar for alcoholic beverages to help hold down the ticket cost. More details on the Fall Reunion will be given in the August newsletter.

Kitta Reeds is leading the effort to prepare the nomination of SRI for the National Medal of Technology, which is due around October. We thank Kitta for undertaking this job. Tom Anyos has donated a late-model Compaq PC computer to the Archives Committee of the Alumni Association. It will be used for archiving nonproject material. Thank you, Tom!

Mike Wilber is working on our website, which is badly in need of revision. He expects to have the revised site ready within a few months. We greatly appreciate Mike's work on the website.

We hope you find something of interest in this newsletter. Please send any comments you have to the address on the front of this newsletter. Have a pleasant and safe summer.

The SRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION is headed by a Steering Committee, currently chaired by George Abrahamson. Other members of the Steering Committee members (as of April 2002) are: Tom Anyos, Joyce Berry, Don Cone, Eleanor Connolly, Don Nielson, Donn Parker, Jim Peterson, Kitta Reeds, Elmer Reist, Bob Schwaar, Lucy Steelman, Pete Valenti, Fred Weil, and Mike Wilber. (Welcome to Eleanor, Kitta, Pete, and Mike, who joined us recently).

Suggestions Welcomed — What can we do to make the Alumni Association more interesting? More events? Fewer events? Trips? Monthly lunches? Let us know how we can enhance your membership experience! We will try to accommodate you.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We'd like to welcome our New Alumni Association Members and invite them to get involved in one or more of our Committees.

Don't forget the Picnic and Reunion!

Bill Cowell  
 Marie desJardin  
 Lee Fletcher  
 Shirley Fletcher  
 Erin Glynn  
 Pam Gutman  
 Harry Hopla  
 Ernie Lantz  
 Herb Lechner  
 Stan Martin  
 Liz Neumann

### **LOST ALUMNI**

Your Alumni Association is trying to locate lost SRI Alumni who haven't yet heard about us or haven't joined us. If you've worked at SRI, moved to

another job, retired, or left SRI and returned, you qualify as an Alumnus. We're looking for you! Remember that people who worked at SRI Consulting, Atomic Tangerine, BIC, and other recent spinoffs are also eligible to join the SRI Alumni Association.

The SRI Alumni Association is starting a Membership Drive to locate Alumni and invite them to enjoy the benefits of Membership. It's inexpensive, fun and through our Newsletters, Special Events, Picnic and Reunion, you can keep in touch with old colleagues and friends from years past. If you'd like to be a bit more active, we invite you to join one of our Committees – Membership, Communications, Finance, Events, Internet or Archives to help us keep up with the past and plan future events.

Current Alumni! Can you help us? Do you know ex-SRI staff who haven't heard of us or for one reason or the other, haven't decided to join? Dues are only \$10 a year—a minimal amount for the benefits we offer. If you know of a potential member, please contact us – you can write to the Membership Committee, SRI International, AC-110, 333 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025 or call our Voicemail at 650-859-5100, or call me at 650-323-3448 or contact us via the Internet at [srialum@sri.com](mailto:srialum@sri.com).

—Tom Anyos  
 Membership Chairman

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Activity during the year ending Dec. 31, 2001

Bank Balance as of 1/1/01	\$9,807
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<u>Operating Income:</u>	
Membership Dues	6,320
Interest on Savings	<u>147</u>
Total	6,467

<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	
Postage	2,955
Printing	1,178
Miscellaneous	<u>15</u>
Total	4,148

NET OPERATING INCOME (added to Bank Balance)	2,318
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<u>Reunion Income:</u>	
Attendance Fees	2,090
Donations	<u>2,681</u>
Total	4,771

<u>Expenses:</u>	
Catering Expenses	4,549
Other expenses	<u>135</u>
Total reunion expenses	4,683

NET REUNION INCOME	88
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TOTAL NET INCOME	2,406
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Bank Balance as of 12/31/01	\$12,213
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Note: Events such as the Reunion are planned to be self-supporting, and are not subsidized by member dues payments.

—Pete Valenti  
 Treasurer

## NOMINATION FOR THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY

The SRI Alumni Association plans to nominate SRI International for the National Medal of Technology—the highest honor bestowed by the President of the United States to America's leading innovators.

The Medal, first awarded in 1985, is given annually to individuals, teams, or companies for accomplishments in the innovation, development, commercialization, and management of technology, as shown by their work in creating new or significantly improved products, processes, or services.

In 2000, Doug Engelbart, nominated by SRI, was awarded the National Medal of Technology for creating the foundations of personal computing. The citation states that "More than any other person, he created the personal computing component of the computer revolution." Paul Cook, formerly Chairman of SRI's Board of Directors, was awarded the Medal in 1988 for "his vision and entrepreneurial efforts, his technical accomplishments . . . and his business and technical leadership as the key contributor in creating a worldwide chemically based

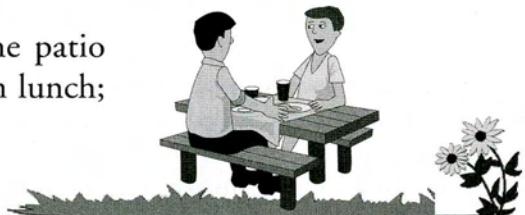
industry." Previous companies awarded the Medal include IBM, Biogen, Inc., Johnson & Johnson, 3M, Merck & Co., Inc., Du Pont, and AT&T-Bell Laboratories.

Kitta Reeds, Joyce Berry, and Tom Anyos are preparing the nomination. They plan to rely heavily on advice and input from Kinney Thiele and Don Nielson, who prepared the Doug Engelbart nomination, and to draw material from the book Don Nielson has written about SRI's history of innovation. Kitta said, "SRI has been innovating for more than 55 years. The problem will be in choosing which of the thousands of innovations and technologies to highlight."

The National Medal of Technology is awarded to recognize technological innovators who have made lasting contributions that have enhanced America's competitiveness and standard of living. The Medal highlights the national importance of fostering technological innovation based upon solid science, resulting in commercially successful products and services.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Spring reunion will be held on **Thursday, May 9** in the patio area between Buildings 100 and 108 at noon. Bring your own lunch; soft drinks are provided.



The Tokyo chapter of the SRI Alumni Association will hold its third annual reunion on **Monday, May 13**. Anyone who comes to Japan around this date is invited to attend and enjoy the party together with Japanese alumni.

The Gibson Award Ceremony will take place on **Tuesday, June 11** at 4 pm in the International Building. *See accompanying story.*

The Annual SRI Alumni reunion will be held on **Thursday, October 3**. Save the date! Further details in the August Newsletter. We hope to see you there!

## HISTORY CORNER — THE LASER PHOTOCOAGULATION PROJECT

*One of SRI's most widely applicable and dramatic developments is described in Don Nielson's forthcoming book on SRI history. [Excerpted with permission]:*

. . . It was at the tennis club but it wasn't one of your normal club tennis matches. Don Schuech, then head of a SRI Division in electronics and radio science, was in the pool tossing a wet tennis ball around with his son. One such toss came at Don from out of the sun and struck him directly in the eye. Dazed and hurt he tried to brush it off, but a day or so later began to see the impact of the injury on his sight in that eye. He called his tennis friend and ophthalmologist, Dr. H. Christian Zweng, who urged him to come immediately to the Palo Alto Clinic where he worked.

After diagnosing the injury as a torn retina, he showed Don a brand new device that used a laser to repair it. The treatment worked, at least temporarily, but Dr. Zweng took the opportunity to grumble about the many disadvantages of this handheld ophthalmoscope into which had been incorporated a ruby laser. He was considering alternatives and looking for an environment in which to develop a more clinically useful device. Don replied that there were some very competent engineers at SRI and that if he wanted to pursue a better system, why not come to SRI and explore that possibility?

Dr. Zweng took Don's advice and so in late 1963 there began a long and fruitful relationship between Zweng, some fellow ophthalmologists at the Stanford Medical Center, and SRI. Some five years later that collaboration resulted in the first clinically useful instrument for laser photocoagulation.

The transparent opening to the eye, the cornea and the lens, offers a natural entrance for visible laser light. The spherical inner backside of the eye, called the choroid, supports the retina, the light-sensitive film containing the rods, cones, nerve endings, and blood supply. Images falling on the retina are converted to electrical impulses that are interpreted in the brain as what we see. When any portion of the retina detaches from the back of the eyeball it loses its sphericity and vision is disrupted in that area. The laser offers an excellent means to reach and treat the otherwise inaccessible retinal area.

The method of using a powerful light source to bind retinal tissue or to cauterize diseased blood vessels in the eye is called photocoagulation. It had been used since the early 1950s to repair injuries to the retina. The earliest approach was the use of a white-light xenon arc-lamp source. Because the most critical areas of the retina are very small, the inaccuracies of the white-light photocoagulator meant it was unsuitable for the most delicate operations. The coherent power of visible-

wavelength lasers offered a new approach. The first laser used was the low-power, handheld ruby laser mentioned above, and it was frustratingly difficult to use and somewhat dangerous.

When the program began at SRI, diabetic retinopathy was the leading cause of blindness in the United States, a disease for which the laser proved to be ideally suited. So, there was a great need for treating such patients. The procedure was noninvasive and simple for trained ophthalmologists. By choosing a suitable wavelength and exposure time, the ophthalmologist could readily cauterize the diseased blood vessels in the retina or reattach certain forms of torn or detached retinas. This contribution has been enormous.

In 1966 a \$1.5M grant was awarded to Stanford with appropriate funding of SRI, and they embarked on a multiyear development program. In addition to Christian Zweng, the laser photocoagulation team at SRI included Art Vassiliadis, Dick Honey; Norm Peppers, Ann Hammond, Lloyd Alterton; Earl Scribner, James Hayes, and Bob Myers.

Out of this effort came the first clinically useful and commercially successful argon laser photocoagulator. This instrument could repair torn retinas or help prevent detached retinas by "welding" them back in place.

SRI's argon laser photocoagulator technology became the basis for an important local company, Coherent Radiation. There it became not only a highly successful clinical tool, but also a significant commercial success for the company. Art Vassiliadis left SRI to join Coherent, as it is now known, which has grown to a \$400 million corporation with a very wide range of laser applications. The 2000 Series photocoagulator is their main ophthalmologic product

The SRI team continued to work with the Stanford Medical Center in other ocular uses of the laser: to puncture a tiny hole in the iris to relieve the fluid overpressure in patients with acute glaucoma and to coagulate the hemorrhaging blood vessels in diabetic retinopathy.

As to Don Scheuch, his eyesight needed some continuing attention from his injury. He became the first patient to use the SRI-developed system, a true pioneer who on more than one occasion lent himself to tests as the development proceeded. Confident and grateful, his eyesight today is fine.

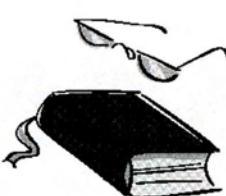
## STAY SERENE WHILE SELLING YOUR IDEAS

Kitta tells all in her new Book . . .



Sick of the frenzied whirlwind your life becomes when a deadline looms? Stressed about relying on that last-ditch overnight service to squeeze your proposal in under the wire? Does even thinking about preparing a proposal freeze you into a nonproductive panic? Help is here.

*The Zen of Proposal Writing*, by Kitta Reeds, will be published in May 2002 by Three Rivers Press, a division of Random House. The book draws on Kitta's 30 years of experience as a technical editor and trainer at SRI. It quotes many successful proposal writers at SRI and gives advice from the reviewers who have the power to accept or reject proposals. Kitta says, "The stories in the book are true and the writing examples come from real SRI proposals, although I've sometimes changed a few nouns to disguise the writer. I've also included revelations from people who have attended my workshops on Writing Winning Proposals."



The blurb on the back cover of *The Zen of Proposal Writing* says:

Whether you are requesting a raise, laying out a spanking new marketing concept, pitching your book, or seeking a grant, *The Zen of Proposal Writing* provides solid advice, tangible examples, and the keys to remaining calm and in control. Drawing on the techniques and wit of Zen,

Kitta Reeds shares her secrets as a seasoned professional—illustrating the stages of proposal writing with classic Zen parables coupled with on-point advice and practical instruction, including:

One Hand Clapping:  
The Sound We Make  
When We Forget to Connect  
with Our Readers

Zazen Meditation: How to Write that  
Proposal in Spite of Yourself

The Simplicity of a Zen Garden: How  
to Grow Strong Verbs and Clean Up  
After Yourself

Right Speech: How to Give a Sweet  
Pitch—and Win Over Your Audience

With an expert at your side, learn to eliminate stress, hand wringing, and procrastination while you calmly compose an effective and winning proposal—the Zen way.

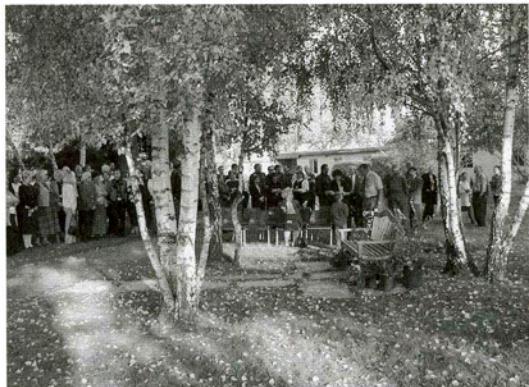
Kitta retired from SRI last March as the manager of publications for the Physical Sciences Division. Since then, she has been leading workshops on Writing Winning Proposals in Washington, DC, and Menlo Park and editing for SRI's spin-offs. She also serves on the Alumni Association's Steering Committee.

## ALUMNI-SPONSORED SPEAKERS

This year, we hope to offer a number of noontime speakers for your enjoyment. Mostly SRI Alums who have something interesting to share – past glories, hope for the future, or just fun topics. Stayed tuned for the announcements!

## CEREMONIES HONOR TWO SRI ALUMNI, VICTIMS OF SEPT. 11 ATTACKS

Among the many victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks were two former SRI employees. They were honored at ceremonies held November 15, 2001 in the area between buildings P and 320. A grove of birch trees surrounding a teak bench with a bronze plaque was dedicated in their memories, and in the memory of all the victims of the attacks.



Attendees at the dedication



John Prausa opened the ceremonies at SRI, then called on Paul Jorgensen, retired SRI VP, to say a few words about Melissa. Jeff Weiss then recalled his former colleague Max Hammond, who was a passenger on United flight 175 that was crashed into the second tower at WTC on September 11.



Melissa Harrington joined SRI International in 1996, where she worked in the International Policy Group. A China expert, Melissa soon became program manager for the China Economic Technology Alliance (CETA). She was "... a vibrant person, very smart, directed and really together", according to her former boss, Marina Gorbis.

Melissa left SRI to join Slam Dunk Networks, a Redwood Shores-based firm that specialized in high-speed electronic transactions. As the company's Director of Business Development, she found herself attending a financial technology conference on the 101<sup>st</sup> floor of the North Tower of the WTC on that fateful morning. In her final moments, she had time to make a last phone call to her father, Robert Harrington of West Springfield, Mass., and to leave a voice mail message for her husband of one year, Sean Hughes.

Melissa had managed to pack a lot of living into her 31 years. A long string of accomplishments preceded her graduation from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. A junior year in Bologna furthered her interest in international affairs. After studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, she earned an MA, magna cum laude, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She joined the United States Dept. of Commerce in the International Relations Division, focussing on trade with China. After moving to the Bay Area, she met Sean Hughes. They were married in August 2000 in a Napa Valley ceremony. An avid traveler, Melissa enjoyed combining international business with leisure travel with Sean. She was also active in the San Francisco Junior League and (with Sean) in the St. Vincent de Paul Church.



Paul Jorgensen conferring with Melissa's husband, Sean Hughes.

## CEREMONIES HONOR TWO SRI ALUMNI (Concluded)

Carl Max Hammond, Jr., was a physicist in the Applied Electromagnetic Laboratory at SRI for five years, from 1996 to 2001. Trained as a space physicist, Max arrived at SRI after a Post-Doc in Los Alamos in space physics. Among his many accomplishments at SRI, he created and developed the SRI Wave Tank facility. At a ceremony also held on November 15, just before the dedication of the bench, that facility was dedicated in his memory as the **Max Hammond Wave Tank**.

In that ceremony, Jeff Weiss spoke of "... the great esteem I have for his abilities and his contributions not only to the Wave Tank – but toward other projects where Max spent most of his time, but that we can't advertise so openly." For those other contributions, Max was recognized by honored guests Captain Skinner and Commander Sherman, representing the U.S. Navy.

"Most of all, during the five years we had Max in our lab, his powerful personality and gung-ho attitude made life around here much more interesting. He was the only physicist that I have ever worked with who regularly quoted Stonewall Jackson", Jeff added.

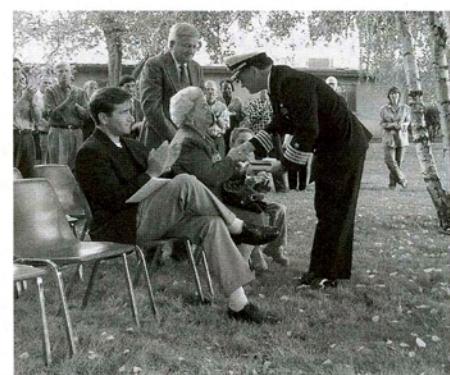
Max's parents, Carl Max and Sue Hammond of Geneva, Alabama, were also present at the ceremonies honoring their son.



Sean Hughes with Mr. and Mrs. Hammond.



John Prausa with Mrs. Hammond admiring the bench.



US Naval Officer extending condolences to the parents of Max Hammond; Sean Hughes (at left).



The Hammond family and Sean Hughes after the dedication.

*During a visit this spring to the bench in the birch glade, this writer was greeted by masses of daffodils in full bloom, adding to the sense of serenity and contemplation.*



Max received a B.S. in physics from Georgia Tech and a Ph.D. at UCLA. He left SRI in January 2001 to join MIT.

He was 37 and unmarried when he died. He had recently purchased a home on 6 acres in the woods in Derry, New Hampshire. Max loved to fix up old Mustangs, and had just taken a welding course at MIT.

In his concluding remarks Jeff Weiss said, "This bench will be a place for people thinking about solutions to their technical problems to pause on their way to or from lunch and remember Max. It is, therefore, a very fitting memorial. His many friends and colleagues at SRI will appreciate it." —R. Schwaar

## BUSINESS TRAVEL TRAVAL: AN EASY WAY TO LONDON

Donn B. Parker

Business travel through the years at SRI has been fraught with logistical nightmares for many of us. Several of my bad ones resulted from sickness and injury. One of them was an unusual trip to London two days after I dislocated my knee on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. It started this way:

On the last day of the cruise returning to Ft. Lauderdale, I was walking with my wife, Lorna, on the slippery deck early in the morning. I was wearing my cheap thong sandals and my foot went out from under me causing my kneecap to dislocate, and my leg collapsed sideways amid much screaming. (I have done this several times during my lifetime—I hate it when it does that.) I hit my kneecap to knock it back into place, my leg straightened out with a pop, but within an hour the knee started swelling into the size of a large cantaloupe. I finished the last day of the cruise on crutches, and the plane ride home was excruciating. I couldn't bend my leg, so it stuck out into the aisle. [*Ed. Note: a long way out, considering that Donn stands about 6'6"*]

When I got home, I called the hapless program chairman of the banking conference in London where I was supposed to lecture two days hence. I told him my problem. He said, "Look, I have a hundred bankers from all over Europe coming to hear about computer crime, and that's what they are going to hear — and from you. I will do whatever it takes to get you here."

I said, "But I have a puffy leg that won't bend."

"Okay, this is what we will do. I will upgrade you to first class on your British Airways 747 flight and get you the front seat with plenty of legroom, and we will meet you with an ambulance at Heathrow. No leg bending of any kind will be necessary, and you will get plenty of rest."

Always ready for a new traveling experience, I said, "I'll do my best."

Lorna took me to the San Francisco Airport in the back seat of the car. She got a wheel chair that comes with a uniformed pusher. He pushed me out to the gate with my leg sticking straight out and carrying my luggage

and crutches on my lap. He got me checked in, and I was the first one on the plane, all for a tip of only \$5.00. The flight was without incident, and BA was very nice to me. At Heathrow, another pusher with a wheel chair met me, walked me straight through Customs and wheeled me to a waiting ambulance. With siren screaming, for no apparent reason, we headed into the City. I was carried into the venerable old Churchill Hotel where Dennis Finnigan and Fred Weil used to stay. It is near the Queen Elizabeth Conference center in Westminster. I crutched my way into the lobby where a bellman met me and said he was assigned to assist me. He got me directly up to my room, untied my shoelace and got my pants off. I collapsed for the rest of the day.

That evening, the trusty bellman arrived at my room on time and got my pants on and tied my shoelace. My host picked me up in a van and away we went to dinner with some of the bankers, a nice lot. I repeated the practiced routine upon return to the hotel.

The next morning after the necessarily assisted pants-putting-on and shoelace tying, I packed up and checked out, and an ambulance delivered me to the QE Conference Center. I gave my talk successfully and without incident, unaccustomed though I was to speaking while sitting on a barstool and my leg resting on a chair. The bankers that attended the dinner and knew about my ordeal shouted, "Well done, old boy!" Immediately after my presentation, I was whisked off by ambulance to Heathrow where I caught the 1 p.m. flight to San Francisco, repeating, in reverse and without incident, the events I described at the beginning of this escapade.

I figure that my leg got more rest by going on that 33-hour trip to London and back than if I had stayed home hobbling around. I learned something important for all travelers from this experience. If you ever want to travel easily without worrying about checking in, getting tickets, getting through security and customs, finding a gate, boarding a crowded plane, and all that without walking or waiting in any lines, simply enter the air terminal, start limping, and yell, "Wheelchair."

## SRI UK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A new organization for the SRI UK Alumni Association has recently been established. The aim is to build upon the base that was established through the dedication and hard work of the recently deceased Elizabeth Stevens.

They provide local activities to supplement the publications and other benefits of the US based SRI Alumni Association.

**Gia Campari** has agreed to take over as coordinator. She would appreciate any suggestions from members for activities/events to be sponsored by the association. **David Gibby** has volunteered to handle membership administration. He is currently updating the UK alumni database. He would appreciate receiving names, addresses, and e-mail addresses for any alumni that current members may know of. David has also established a bank account so that membership dues can now be easily paid in Sterling.

David is in the process of building a web site for the organization. You can view the work-in-progress at: <http://members.aol.com/SRI Alumni UK>. (Note that the original URL is no longer valid.)

The SRI Alumni Association is supporting the new organization, and will assist in a new membership drive. Please help by suggesting new candidates for membership, either by contacting them directly or by sending their names and contacts to David. We look forward to seeing increased activity from a larger UK Alumni Association.

Contact information for the UK Alumni Association principals:

David R. Gibby  
SRI UK Alumni-Membership Admin.  
36 Velsheda Court  
Hythe Marina Village  
Southampton SO45 6DW  
E-mail: [DavidGIBBY@aol.com](mailto:DavidGIBBY@aol.com)  
Tel.: 023 80 840 810

Gia Campari  
SRI UK Alumni Coordinator  
Flat 4  
55 Kensington Gardens Square  
London W2 4BA  
E-mail: [gia.campari@openavigators.com](mailto:gia.campari@openavigators.com)  
Tel.: 020 77 92 3165

## 2002 GIBSON AWARD

The Weldon B. Gibson Achievement Award recognizes SRI employees whose work has improved the peace and prosperity of society and has brought special luster to SRI's reputation. The Award for 2002 will be presented to **Dennis Finnigan** in the I-Bldg on June 11 at 4:00 pm, followed by a reception. All SRI Alumni are invited.

Dennis Finnigan was a leader among the young alumni of Stanford's Graduate School of Business who built SRI's pioneering techno-economic research group. In the 1950's, he led groundbreaking management science projects on operations research and data processing for defense agencies and private industries.

The key to the success of Finnigan's approach was to link computers and operations research: large volumes of electronic data were entered into mathematical models that simulated inventory, production, scheduling, and other complex planning and control applications. Finnigan was among the first to identify business applications for the emerging technologies of electronic data processing and computer simulation.

An important example of how Finnigan's work benefited society is the leadership role he played in the development of the first worldwide computer-based reservation system for SAS Airlines. This project brought together people from SRI, SAS, IBM and other companies during a two-year period to create a unique, first of a kind, real-time, on-line reservation system for passenger reservations, check in, and follow-up. The project resulted in new computer hardware and software that IBM took first to the rest of the airline world and later to banks, insurance companies, department stores, and other industries. Finnigan, Charlie Reutherskiold (Director of SAS Data Services), and later Fred Plugge of American Airlines (SABRE) are hailed as the fathers of these pioneering developments. (Fred Plugge later joined SRI.)

In 1982, King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden awarded Dennis Finnigan the Knightly Order of the North Star (equivalent to knighthood) for his contributions in developing the Swedish economy and modernizing European industry. The award also honored him for identifying and developing promising young men and women, and building good and useful institutions. This award – Sweden's highest civilian honor – recognizes Finnigan's contributions to improving peace and prosperity of society.

## SRI INTERNATIONAL AND PALM EVALUATE IMPACT OF HANDHELD COMPUTERS IN CLASSROOMS

On March 6, 2002, SRI International and Palm, Inc. announced the results of a first-of-a-kind study of the integration of handheld technology in K-12 teaching and learning. The announcement was made at the Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) held in Orlando.

The study results are based on 100 classrooms that used handhelds for teaching and learning. These classrooms were part of the Palm Education Pioneer (PEP) program, which awarded \$2.3 million in technology grants to 175 classrooms in the United States. SRI International's Center for Technology in Learning (CTL), administered and evaluated the program

"The findings are consistent with the belief that handheld computers enable more effective teaching and learning," said Barbara Means, Ph.D., director of the CTL. "SRI's findings are based on the work of real teachers, in actual classroom activities, not in the lab. SRI researchers collected data from teachers around the country who innovated in all kinds of classrooms, with all kinds of students."

The evaluative report draws upon 86 PEP projects in a variety of grade levels and academic programs. Hand-held computers promoted student autonomy and responsibility. Teachers found that handheld computers helped transform "inquiry" learning activities into a more sophisticated experience by



improving data collection and data interpretation. Teachers also found that handheld computers facilitated outdoor inquiry learning activities, improved classroom management, promoted student collaboration and interaction, and improved students' organizational skills.

However, some respondents expressed concern over the potential for handheld computers to negatively impact student behavior, including issues with complexity, difficulty mastering handwriting recognition software, and the potential loss or theft of the handheld computers. To determine the validity of these concerns, they will be further studied as evaluations continue.

Similar findings on the future of small, portable computers in elementary and secondary education were reported at a workshop held in Portland, OR. on February 21, 2002. The workshop, organized by CILT, the Center for Innovative Learning Technologies (<http://cilt.org>), was sponsored by Intel. SRI International and the Concord Consortium, founding members of CILT, organized the two-day workshop being hosted on Intel's Portland campus.

*More information is available at: <http://www.palmgrants.sri.com>. and at [www.sri.com](http://www.sri.com) (under press releases)*

*More information about Palm is available at <http://www.palm.com>.*

## PRESS CLIPPINGS

Knowledge Management magazine devoted three pages to an interview with SRI President Curt Carlson. Explaining SRI's structure and mission, Curt explained that SRI combines the innovation of a university, the support infrastructure of a corporation, and the rewards of a start-up, enjoying the best features of all three. "The world outside has an increasing need for innovative technologies," he continued. Important problems need champions and productive teams to work on them and refine ideas. "We find champions who have big ideas by putting in place a process to identify and support them." [*Knowledge Management*, January 2001.]

## IN MEMORIAM

### **Elizabeth Stevens**



Elizabeth Stevens died peacefully from cancer, on January 9, 2002. Her death, at age 55, came as a great shock to all who had met her at various times last year, since she had appeared to be winning her battle, and had had a good Christmas.

Elizabeth came to SRI after nine years in the offshore oil and gas service industry, finally as Commercial Manager. She joined SRI in October 1984 as Manager of the Croydon Business Office, but in April 1988 transferred to become a Consultant working on Financial Services projects, before specializing in the Insurance industry. After leaving SRI in December 1993 to start her own company, she wrote a number of books on the application of leading-edge IT in this sector.

Although Elizabeth had lived and was educated in the USA from the age of seven until her early twenties, she was very much an Englishwoman, with clearly expressed views, a flair for organizing people and events, and a wide range of interests. She met her husband Jeremy when they were both doing the lighting for an amateur dramatic society.

In 1985 she founded the Honeywood Trust to provide computers to disabled people; she became a Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society; she contributed many articles to her local village magazine. She loved her horse Petra and competitive riding, and she had recently started taking singing lessons! We have Elizabeth to thank for setting up the UK branch of the SRI Alumni Association - she started a newsletter and arranged the first (of many?) reunions in London.

A large number of people, including many former colleagues from Elizabeth's SRI-Croydon days, celebrated her life at a Memorial Service held at Sway Parish Church, near Lymington, on 24<sup>th</sup> January. They, and many more that were not able to attend, will miss her.

—prepared by: David Gibby

*The photograph shows Elizabeth with Petra – taken when she started riding again, just two weeks after her operation, in early summer 2000.*

### **Philip Jeuck III**

Philip Jeuck, 51, died on January 7. He was a senior research engineer in the Radio Communications Dept. at SRI at the time of his death. He began as a research engineer in February 1977, and became a senior research engineer in 1985. Outside SRI, he worked with photography students at La Entrada School and was a Little league coach and a softball coach.

He is survived by his wife Suzanne, his daughter Melissa, his son Steven, his mother, Marie Jeuck, and his sister, Susan Waldbuesser.

### **Charlotte Irvine**

Charlotte Irvine died on March 9, her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Her long and varied career included service as an editor and technical writer at SRI from September 1975 to October 1983. A 1931 graduate of Cornell University, she was also a secretary in the German Department at Stanford. Long active in the wider community, she was a past president of the Palo Alto League of Women Voters and of the League of Women Voters of California. She was a member of the San Mateo County Charter Revision Committee and of the California Constitution Revision Committee. She was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

### **C. Ward Seitz**

Ward Seitz died in his sleep early on March 30. He was 72. Ward joined SRI in August 1974, and left as a Senior Consultant on Dec. 31, 1995. We hope to have more details in the next Newsletter.

#### ***In Sympathy:***

Friends of T. Ann Barrett will be saddened to learn that Bertrand J. Barrett, her husband of more than 52 years, died at the age of 81 on January 19. He was a native Californian and had a long and successful career in consulting and investigating for the insurance industry. One of his specialties was marine insurance. His expert witness work took him as far as the High Court, London.

After moving around within California, to Berkeley, Concord, Long Beach, and Alameda, the Barretts settled down in Redwood City. Ann worked at SRI almost 25 years, retiring in 1992.

Their sons Michael, Robert, Kevin, and John also survive him.

## SRI APPLIES ADVANCED SOFTWARE TO ANALYZE NEWLY SEQUENCED GENOME

SRI International's Bioinformatics Research Group today announced that it has used its Pathway Tools software to analyze a newly sequenced genome, *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, producing a comprehensive database of its genome and computational analysis of its metabolic pathways. This database will also serve as a collaborative space where other scientists studying *A. tumefaciens* can share their findings.

SRI researchers worked with a larger team on this project, including researchers from the University of Washington and DuPont. An article about the group's collective findings, "The Genome of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* C58: Insights into the evolution and biology of a natural genetic engineer," was published in the December 14, 2001 issue of *Science* magazine. SRI released its *A. tumefaciens* database, AgroCyc, on its web site the same day ([www.ecocyc.org](http://www.ecocyc.org)).

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Enclosed with this mailing is the last issue of **Highlights**, the bimonthly magazine published for SRI Staff. Publication has been discontinued as of January 1, 2002.

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The SRI Digest, an e-zine, can be viewed on the worldwide web at <http://www.sri.com/news/digest/Headlines> from the current edition include:

- \* ANALYZING GENOMES WITH "PATHWAY TOOLS"
- \* SRI HEIGHTENS REALITY IN COMBAT TRAINING
- \* WIRELESS MICROSENSORS MONITOR HEALTH OF STRUCTURES
- \* NEW VENTURES & STRATEGIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT VP

SRI's Pathway Tools software, which was described in a previous article published in *Science* magazine (September 14, 2001), is the most sophisticated tool available for metabolic pathway analysis of a genome. The AgroCyc database is the twelfth in SRI's growing collection of pathway/genome databases. Additional new databases include those for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and the result of a joint effort with Stanford University sponsored by the Department of Energy's Microbial Cell Project, *Caulobacter crescentus*.

The software provides an environment for publishing pathway/genome databases on the web, and is one of the first software environment that can create model-organism databases for many different organisms. SRI's Pathway Tools is the only software of its kind that is in active use by scientists who were not involved in its development.

### CORRECTIONS

Eagle-eyed readers noticed errors in the photo captions that accompanied the recent article about the Institooters (Dec. 2001):

- Our apologies to Paul De Carli and Jerry Rosenblum for misspelling their names (not di Carli and Rosenberg).
- The center picture on page 6 could obviously not have been taken in 1955. It was probably about 1985 (although the print we used was made in 1995).
- Added information for the pictures just above the center on page 6: Players in the left-hand picture were (l. to r.) Salmon, Linburgh, Brenner, Reese, and Robbins, and in the right-hand picture (l. to r.) Degn, Peters, Lorents, Passell, and De Carli.
- At the upper left on page 7 were (from the top) 1/2 of Passell, Lorents (without his hat), Peters, Degn, Reese, Robbins, Brenner, Salmon, and Cubicciotti.