

# Alumni Association

1996

Celebrating the  
Alumni Association's  
20th Anniversary

2016

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## MESSAGE FROM ARCHIVES CHAIRMAN DON NIELSON



*Don Nielson*

It was spring of 1996 when George Abrahamson, an SRI VP, decided that life after SRI didn't necessarily have to exclude SRI. His notion took the form of an alumni association not unlike those of universities with which SRI had some kinship. Admittedly, in those days an affinity for where one worked was a bit more heartfelt

than what seems prevalent today. Though SRI was not originally conceived as a lifelong employer, its atmosphere became compelling to its staff, and through the years many employees remained with SRI until retirement. In that vein, as well as for people whose time at SRI was simply memorable, a continued association as alumni has some appeal.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the SRI Alumni Association. And for people who are curious about its beginnings, Leif Schaumann tells of how it came to be and who was involved. It is interesting to note how collaborative SRI's Human Resources must have been: Letters went out to a thousand former staff members. Today, mailing addresses are no longer available to anyone. Following that story, Leif describes how the Association's communications role came to be—in particular, the genesis of the newsletter you are now reading and some of the labor in getting it off the ground. Though those early issues are on paper only, you can now find 40 previous digital issues at <https://www.sri.com/about/alumni/alumni-newsletters>. I hope you will dip in.

Also, in this issue you will read about our Spring Fling at Palo Alto's Gamble Garden. Though it was not as well attended as we hoped, we had fun gathering in this verdant setting, punctuated by an occasional drizzle that seemed to be what

the plants were yearning for. If you were never quite clued in to SRI's international work, one of its heroes—retiree Matty Mathieson of the Washington Office—gives you a historical account of SRI's role in the Middle East. Our London group also reports on its activities as the Queen turns 90. And those of you around in the early 1980s may remember the gargoyle that found its way to the top of one of the P Building's huge new stacks. You will learn of its origins and its life at SRI.

Please notice the annual Association reunion here at SRI in mid-September. It is our main chance to renew the acquaintance of colleagues we enjoyed while at SRI. As you will read, the European contingent held its annual reunion this past June, centered on a trip to the British Museum.

Finally, the Association is justifiably proud of its newsletter. Other similar organizations have envied it for years. But because of some illnesses, some word-oriented alumni have been called back into SRI service. We are in desperate need of someone who would like to orchestrate the newsletter's contents. It is not an editing or a layout job—just a bringing together of the candidate material by dealing with people who offer their submissions and combing the newsworthy events happening at SRI. With but three editions each year, this management takes little time. Certainly, someone in SRI's proximity has a production bent already and could help us out. Please respond to [steering-committee-alumni@sri.com](mailto:steering-committee-alumni@sri.com).

*The Annual Reunion is September 15, 2016.  
See announcement on page 16. The flyer for the  
event is enclosed with this mailing.*

### Before the Beginning

As early as 1978, more than 15 years before its birth, the SRI Alumni Association was already a gleam in the eye of Marc Henderson, Executive Director of what has evolved into the current Education Division. At that time, he discussed the idea of an alumni association with then President Charlie Anderson and followed up in 1979 with Anderson's successor, Bill Miller. President Miller agreed that such an organization would be valuable and promised to encourage and support its establishment. The gestation period was longer than expected, but these early discussions finally bore fruit in 1996, when the Alumni Association came into being with full support from SRI, as detailed in Leif Schaumann's articles.

### SRI Alumni Association: Birth and Infancy

*By Leif Schaumann*

This article presents records, recollections, and vignettes related to the formation, organization, and initial work of the SRI Alumni Association (AA). Persons who participated in or witnessed those early days contributed to the text.

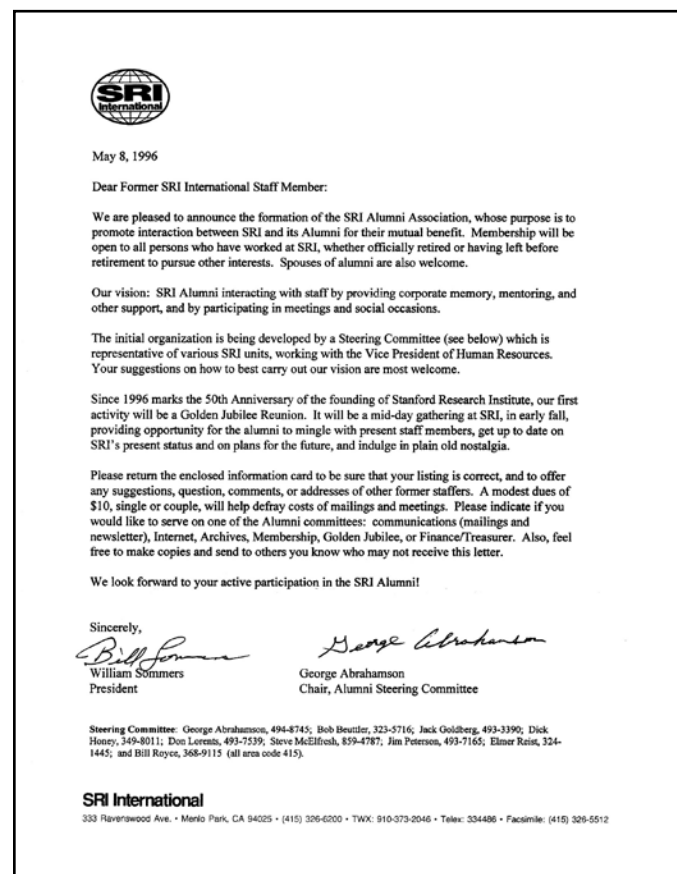
In early 1996, George Abrahamson, an SRI Senior Vice President, approached William Sommers, SRI President and Chief Executive Officer, in regard to the establishment of an alumni association for ex-SRI employees and their spouses. Bill Sommers enthusiastically embraced the concept. George then reached out to a number of colleagues in the Engineering and Physical Sciences Divisions.

The group evolved during subsequent months into the AA Steering Committee (SC), chaired by George. By early May, the members had drafted a charter, vision and mission statements, and a rough organizational structure.

Members of the SC included Bob Beuttler, Jack Goldberg, Dick Honey, Don Lorents, Steve McElfresh, Jim Peterson, Elmer Reist, and Bill Royce. The latter had already become the SC's go-to person, workhorse, and *de facto* secretary, who issued terse, fact-filled minutes immediately after each committee meeting. Steve, Vice President of Human Resources, served as the AA's liaison to SRI.

On May 8, 1996, a one-page letter, signed jointly by George Abrahamson and Bill Sommers, announced the formation

of the Alumni Association and was mailed to some 1,000 ex-SRI employees. The letter also contained top-down information about the AA, announced a celebration of SRI's Golden Jubilee and an Alumni Reunion (GJ/R) for mid-September as the AA's first major event, solicited input from recipients via an accompanying response card, and introduced "a modest dues of \$10, single or couple."



*Letter from Abrahamson and Sommers (May 8, 1996).*

The SRI newsletter *Scene at SRI*, in its May 28 edition, informed SRI staff, under the headline "Calling All SRI Alumni!," of the AA's establishment. The brief announcement also included a reference to the GJ/R event and asked readers to send contact information to Steve for persons with ex-employee ties to SRI who might be interested in joining the AA.

Note that current SRI employees were advised of this new SRI entity several weeks after some 1,000 ex-SRIers had received that information. That focus on past SRI employees was also apparent in the initial AA charter document; current employees and their spouses were included in the charter only through two brief additions to the text more than a month later. Membership dues for those candidates were 25% higher.

# Scene at SRI

## Calling All SRI Alumni!

SRI is establishing an Alumni Association to promote mutually beneficial interactions with SRI/SRIC. The first event will be a Golden Jubilee Reunion this fall, coinciding with SRI's 50th Anniversary.

Membership is open to anyone who has worked at SRI and his or her spouse. An initial mailing was made to about 1000 people. However, the list is far from complete. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please send the name (last name, then first) and address to Steve McElfresh, AC117, SRIALUM@UNIX.SRI.COM.

Following is the Alumni Association Steering Committee:

George Abrahamson	Bob Beuttler
Jack Goldberg	Dick Honey
Don Lorents	Jim Peterson
Elmer Reist	Bill Royce
Steve McElfresh (ex officio)	


*Headline article from Scene at SRI (May 28, 1996).*

About one-third of the letters the AA mailed on May 8 were returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable. Steering Committee members recognized rather quickly that identifying ex-SRIers, capturing their attention, and stimulating them to join the AA were bigger challenges than had been anticipated. After a discussion of various remedies, a low-profile approach—word of mouth—prevailed. Two dominant thoughts were that the GJ/R event would generate a large number of membership applications and that the AA should “learn to crawl before walking and running.”

Further publicity about the AA and the GJ/R event was conducted during July and August via Alice Galloway, SRI's Director of Corporate Communications, who arranged for a “media advisory” to be distributed by SRI to 14 Bay Area news organizations; via a special AA card mailing to ex-SRIers; and via the AA's first newsletter.

Within the AA, June, July, and August 1996 were memorable for numerous policy- and task-related interactions, decisions, and implementation of projects. AA members who sought SRI employee assistance found exceptional and cordial helpfulness; several division executives and department directors and supervisors even devoted personal time in support.

Remember also that this was summertime. Communication was frequently hampered by vacations and nonavailability



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Bill Royce  
Tel: 415/368-9115  
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### SRI Golden Jubilee Reunion

**What:** The SRI Alumni Association invites former employees of SRI International to join in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Stanford Research Institute.

**When:** Thursday, September 12, 1996  
1:30 to 7:00 pm; reception starts at 5:00.  
Pre-registration by August 31.

**Where:** SRI International Building, Menlo Park

**More:** For reunion program and membership information, contact:  
SRI Alumni Association  
333 Ravenswood Avenue, AC-117  
Menlo Park CA 94025-3493  
Voice Mail: 415/859-5100  
E-mail: sri@unix.sri.com

*Media advisory sent to 14 Bay Area news organizations (August 6, 1996).*

of particular individuals. In 1996, the Internet was in its infancy. Few people had a personal computer in the office or at home. Word processors had been around, selectively, for only a few years. Cell phones were also rare.

Yet, dedicated efforts produced good results and led to notable accomplishments, such as:

- Formulation and adoption of the AA Charter.
- Establishment, organization, and initial work priorities of six AA standing committees (Communications, Internet, Archives, Membership, Finance/Treasury, and Golden Jubilee), each directed by a “convener.” The respective leaders were Leif Schaumann, Earle Jones, Lorraine Pratt, Mary Jane Leon/Don Lorents, Pamela McAlpine/Elmer Reist, and Bill Royce.
- Launch of the AA's first newsletter.
- Enrollment of some 450 AA members by early September.
- Welcoming some 350 guests at the GJ/R event on September 12, 1996. The event was deemed hugely successful and energizing on all counts by everyone involved.

During decades as SRI colleagues, Bill Royce and I had done project work together, and we each also had individual experience as a management consultant to startup firms. So, under the watchful eyes of and occasional contributions and

directives by George Abrahamson, Bill and I quickly got to work as a team on the GJ/R project, at the time George's key AA concern. The jubilee was a celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the formation of Stanford Research Institute/SRI International and a signature, first major reunion event for the AA—its “maiden voyage,” so to speak.

Early on, in Steering Committee discussions, George had emphasized repeatedly that the Alumni Association and SRI were separate and independent organizations with their own agendas, but dedicated to mutual support. That arrangement continues to work well 20 years later.

### SRI Alumni Association Charter

#### Purpose

To promote interactions with SRI and among Alumni for mutual benefit

#### Vision

Alumni interacting with SRI Staff and each other by providing corporate memory, mentoring and other support, and by participating in meetings and social occasions.

#### Structure and Activities

**Membership:** All SRI Alumni and spouses are eligible for membership. A small annual membership fee will be assessed to enable the Association to be self-supporting.

**Organization:** The Association is an official SRI organization. The activities of the Association are directed by a Steering Committee of Alumni representative of SRI units, working with the Vice President of Human Resources.

Steering Committee members serve for three years, one-third of the members being replaced each year. New members will be nominated by the Committee and confirmed by the Vice President of Human Resources. A member who becomes inactive may be removed by a majority vote of the Committee. The Committee will elect its chair. The Vice President of Human Resources is an ex-officio member of the Committee. The Committee will meet at least quarterly.

**Communications:** Association Members will be kept informed of SRI news and activities through mailings.

**Social Occasions:** There will be an Annual Meeting to which all Members will be invited. The meeting will normally be held on a work day to facilitate contact between Members and Staff.

Other social occasions may be arranged by Association Members.

**Use of SRI Resources:** The Association will have access to SRI resources (such as copying machines, address lists) for communications with Members. Paper and postage will be covered by Association dues.

Source: SRI Alumni Association newsletter, page 2 (August 1996)



## Starting the Alumni Association's Communications Committee

*By Leif Schaumann*

The initial mission for the Communications Committee (CC) stated that it “will keep Association Members informed of SRI news and activities through mailings.” At the formal establishment by the Steering Committee (SC) of six standing committees, on June 20, 1996, the mission statement was formulated differently: “This Committee will handle mailings to the Association members; it may also use other channels of communication. Any press notices must be cleared with Alice Galloway, who handles SRI publicity.”

In reality, the scope and depth of the Communications Committee's responsibilities and work areas went far beyond either job description. When, in early May, Bob Beuttler had approached me about leading the CC, Bob had indicated that the CC would need to play a much larger role and do so within tight timelines and in close collaboration with the SC, with several other standing committees, and with a number of SRI departments and groups. Leaders of the SC had been concerned about spelling out the real intended role of the CC, fearing a potential lack of volunteer candidates for the “convener” position.

I agreed to accept leadership of the CC for some 3 to 4 months, recognizing not only the work required but also the timing issues: beginning of summer, with vacations, absence of key SRI personnel and of potential CC members, as well as overworked SRI stand-ins. Another, overarching challenge was the still-embryonic electronic environment of computers, desktop publishing, the Internet, cell phones, messaging, and more. In short, the CC's work would need to be carried out in the twilight of old technologies and the dawn of new ones.

Announcements about the AA's formation and membership solicitation, including volunteer committee participation, had been mailed in May and June, before the formal establishment of the standing committees. That publicity generated about a dozen positive responses for membership in the CC, and another dozen leads to CC volunteers came from SC and standing committee members. Follow-up phone calls were made in late June and early July, but the confirmatory response rate was only about 25%. Actually, only five persons showed up for the first and subsequent CC meetings: Dorothy Berryman, Ruth Lizak, Jim Peterson, Leif Schaumann, and Leda Voropaeff.

For the first CC meeting, I had prepared and distributed a handwritten, one-page agenda and a five-page overview of my thinking on some two dozen topics and issues for the committee. My assumptions had been that the CC would have 10 to 12 members and that each member would have at least two immediate task assignments, one of which would be comments and suggestions on the five-pager. After reviewing that material, George Abrahamson let me know privately that there was no need for the Alumni Association to be *that* ambitious or *that* businesslike.

The CC membership immediately got to work on several tasks and projects, notably:

- Establishment of an up-to-date voice mail system (done in 4 days and managed by Dorothy).
- Mailing of a card in George's name, inviting some 350 new AA members to the SRI Golden Jubilee (GJ) celebration on September 12 (done in 1 week).
- Creation and mailing of the AA's first newsletter with an insert about the combined GJ/Reunion (GJ/R) event (done in 4 weeks).
- Composition and distribution via SRI's Corporate Communications Department of a media advisory to selected Bay Area print news organizations, announcing the establishment of the AA and the forthcoming GJ/R event (timed for release on August 6).
- Collaboration with the GJ Committee on arrangements for “D-Day,” September 12, George's primary concern and main event for the AA's first year.

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GREETINGS, WELCOME, and THANK YOU for joining the SRI Alumni Association!  
And do encourage other ex-SRI'ers to become members, too.

Please come and participate in our first event:

### The SRI GOLDEN JUBILEE Celebration

- September 12, 1996, at SRI's Menlo Park HQ
- Registration begins 1:30 pm. Reception 5:00 pm
- Dinner by personal arrangements
- Expect to receive more information soon

Look for the first issue of our newsletter in a few weeks. Meanwhile, we invite your ideas, information or questions.

Cordially, George Abrahamson, Chair, Steering Committee

Voice mail box: 415/859-5100 E-Mail address: srialum@unix.sri.com

*Card from George Abrahamson inviting 350 new AA members to SRI's Golden Jubilee Celebration.*

The highest CC priority was the newsletter. That project had many policy implications and required numerous decisions, approvals, and practical arrangements. In a four-page “Think Piece,” dated July 5, I had identified and discussed nine policy-related matters and issues: Contents, Name, Logo, Format, Layout, Production, Distribution, Publication Frequency, and Costs.

Options in regard to Contents were divided into two segments: the first newsletter issue and subsequent issues; the policy-related matters filled one page. Issues of Costs required even more space and included a complex schematic; it provided data on issue size (4, 6, 8 pages) by publication frequency (4 and 6 times per year) by number of copies (400, 600, 800). We obtained cost estimates from Kinko’s and from SRI; SRI was the preferred vendor on all criteria, by far.

George Abrahamson made all final decisions with regard to the newsletter and the GJ/R event. Many SRI employees were exceptionally helpful and supportive in their commitments to the AA’s success. Particular recognition goes to SRI’s Publications Group, notably Ron Okada, Vince Itatani, and, especially, Roger Myers. Sandy Hinzmann and Alice Galloway are also to be singled out for their roles in getting out the internal and external publicity about the Alumni Association and its activities.

An important and vexing problem surfaced already during the first CC meeting: typing and printing capability. No CC member had adequate capabilities at home or general work experience with desktop publishing. Nor did we find such competency within the SC or standing committees. We canvassed the AA membership roster and made numerous phone calls. Fortunately, early in our search for volunteer help, Ralph Keirstead was able to help, but his time availability was quite limited. Eventually, Bill Royce and, primarily, Roger Myers provided those critically important services.

Finally, on Monday morning, August 5, a group of chiefly SC and CC members gathered in Conference Room B at SRI to assemble this first AA Newsletter. Although 2,000 copies of the four-page newsletter and one-page GJ/R flyer had been printed, we assembled only 1,700 mailing pieces for which we had addresses. We folded, stuffed into envelopes, affixed address labels and flap seals, and then, by noon, delivered the goods to the SRI Mail Room. Ron had scheduled an automatic postage stamp run (at the then first-class rate of 32 cents, George’s limit), and Ron had also arranged for processing by the Menlo Park Post Office by 5 p.m.

Project completed, mission accomplished!



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August 1996

# Welcome!!!!

**I**n February this year a group met to consider forming an SRI alumni association. The response has been enthusiastic; at mailing time the membership was over 400 and has been growing daily!

The Association is an official SRI organization. Our Charter is printed on page 2, along with the names of the Steering Committee members and the Standing Committee chairs. Our purpose is two fold: to support SRI and to have fun with each other. We hope to make progress in both aspects over the coming year. As none of us has ever done this before, we will have to learn as we go, but that is not new to SRI veterans.

Our first event will be the Golden Jubilee Reunion on September 12, celebrating SRI's 50th anniversary! The Committees have been working over the past three months to contact past SRIers and to plan the Golden Jubilee Reunion. We hope you will plan to attend and meet with friends to share memories of your SRI days and what you have been up to since you left.

We invite you to participate to any extent you wish, and hope your involvement will bring you much joy and satisfaction.

*George Abrahamson, Chair, Steering Committee*

**I** am delighted to welcome the new SRI Alumni Association as part of SRI!

SRI was built over the years by the accomplishments of the staff, many of whom now are alumni. Many of you have shown continuing interest in SRI's success. We hope the Alumni Association will provide a channel for staying informed on SRI activities, and for making contributions that draw on your knowledge and experience gained over the years.

I feel confident that you will take great pleasure in your interactions with each other. The Golden Jubilee Reunion is a wonderful opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones, and to meet some of the people carrying on SRI's work today.

SRI has made landmark contributions that affect the daily lives of people the world over. Fifty years is a substantial time to be a leading R&D organization. In response to changes in our markets, we are working to reshape SRI to enable us to continue making important contributions over the next fifty years. We appreciate your interest, help, and support.

I look forward to working with the SRI Alumni Association and wish you great success.

*Bill Sommers, President, SRI International*



## Celebrating SRI'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Thursday, September 12, 1996  
(See Program Inside)



### Spring Fling: Visit to Gamble Garden

On Friday, May 6, a group of alumni and their guests enjoyed a visit to Gamble Garden in Palo Alto. The weather was inclement, but that didn't stop anyone from exploring the ground floor of the 1902 Colonial/Georgian Revival house and the formal, working, and demonstration gardens. The group enjoyed lunch together in the carriage house.

Edwin Gamble, son of Procter and Gamble's co-founder; his wife, Elizabeth; and their children, James, George, Elizabeth,

and Launcelot, moved to Palo Alto from Kentucky in 1901 when James entered Stanford University. The 2.5-acre property was willed to the City of Palo Alto in 1971. Now supported by a nonprofit foundation, the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden is a precious and uncommon resource for everyone. Located in old Palo Alto, the historic property has a rich legacy of generosity, education, and beauty. The gardens are free and open to the public every day during daylight hours.

*Thanks to Boyd Fair for Spring Fling photos.*





## Lunches in London

*By David Gibby*

### The Recent London Alumni Reunion Meeting

On Sunday, June 12, a group of us met at the British Museum in London to see the special exhibition *Sunken Cities - Egypt's Lost Worlds* ([http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats\\_on/exhibitions/sunken\\_cities.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/sunken_cities.aspx)). This is an amazing collection of more than 300 artifacts brought up from the cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus, which had been built on islands near the mouth of the river Nile more than 2,500 years ago but sank about 1,200 years ago and were only recently discovered. We saw many statues of ancient gods (some colossal, some beautiful), stelae (detailed inscriptions in stone, some in three languages: hieroglyphics, Greek, and demotic), golden rings and brooches, and everyday utensils—many perfectly preserved in the soft mud in which they had been buried. So far only about 5% of the total area covered by these two cities has been uncovered, so we can expect many more such treasures to be discovered in the years ahead. The exhibition included explanations of what these items tell us about the interactions between the Egyptians, the Roman Empire, and Greek culture. There were also video clips showing the divers finding many of the objects on the seabed. Some of the exhibits can be seen in this YouTube video, *Sunken Cities at the British Museum* ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARDjbz\\_VdUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARDjbz_VdUw)).

Afterward, we had a very enjoyable lunch at Tas, a nearby Turkish restaurant. We marveled at what we had just seen, reminisced about our times at SRI, and exchanged news of former colleagues who were unable to join us.



*Left to right – Peter Weissuhm, Gia Campari, David Gibby, Gillian and Nick Collin, Maurizio Petitbon, Bob Morgen, Sally Sturcke, Jeanette Gibby, Nick Sturcke, Anne Saunders*

## Lunch with the Queen

Meanwhile, elsewhere in London on June 12, my sister and her husband were among more than 10,000 people at a “street party,” sitting down to a picnic lunch in the rain! This was the Patron’s Lunch (<http://www.thepatronslunch.com/blog-grid>), a special event to mark the 90th birthday of our Queen Elizabeth, for 8,000 members of over 600 charities of which the Queen is patron and 2,000 members of the general public who had bought tickets to take part in the festivities. The venue was The Mall, the wide road from Buckingham Palace to Trafalgar Square. The organizers had provided many gallons of sun cream (which was not needed) and 12,000 plastic capes (which were needed) for the guests and the organisers. Everyone was given a special souvenir hamper of food and several additional items from the event’s sponsors. The Queen and other members of the royal family drove past in open-topped cars, military bands played and marched past, and the picnickers were able to take their own special photographs.



As we drove home, we reflected on what an enjoyable day we’d all had. Then we turned on the car radio and heard the horrific news of the massacre in Orlando. We will never forget Sunday, June 12, 2016.

*By Don Nielson*

As you are aware, SRI has now been under its new CEO, Bill Jeffrey, for about two years. He is clearly leaving his mark on SRI. Although the problems any CEO faces at SRI aren't particularly new, he is providing his own emphasis on them. You will recognize the principal list: make world-changing impacts, operate in a self-sustaining way, and become more efficient. What seems different, at least from our restricted vantage point, is the intensity and innovation he is applying to each of them.

World-changing impacts are now evident more often—in fact, repeatedly. Raising the level of the problems SRI seeks to solve helps in that regard. Sustainable operations are underpinned by increasing our commercial work, which, being value priced rather than fixed fee, creates much greater profit per revenue dollar. The same goes for the contribution of intellectual-property (IP) licensing and sales and product development. Although that area of income came a long way under Curt Carlson, it has even more emphasis now. IP exploitation remains a significant factor in SRI's operations.

Finally, SRI is about halfway through a three-year plan to bring its information infrastructure up to present-day standards. Also, part of increased efficiency is staff training. And here we find a new and interesting approach to employee-development training. Researchers within five years of completing their degrees are invited to present a real proposal, with research content, finances, and potential clients, for internal funding before a panel of SRI staff. This

“Shark Tank” setting not only hatches good ideas but also brings early-career staff into the genesis of contract research or IP development sooner than they might experience it otherwise. Researchers between five and ten years after completing their degrees qualify for similar proposal funding, but necessarily across division lines. As much as anything, these innovations emphasize SRI's emerging culture. One early example of a “Shark Tank” project that concerns the Zika virus is described at <https://www.sri.com/blog/combining-expertise-battle-zika>.

One present example of exploring a solution to important problems is SRI's work on flu vaccine. The goal of the research is to find a flu vaccine that will remain effective across the flu strains that now require annual modification to be effective. Each year the flu is responsible for about 36,000 deaths in the United States. And because the better part of a year is necessary to develop a vaccine for an expected strain, the virus circulating at the time of injections could well be different from the targeted one. SRI, in collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, has been focusing on how the flu virus in general replicates using a host cell's RNA and how mutations can become resistant to medications. Through the synthesis of a new compound that interferes with flu virus replication, great progress is taking place in that area, but research continues on the question of viral vaccine resistance. In other words, it is necessary to see how and whether such compounds can remain effective across a broad range of mutations. More complete information is available by going to a blog entry on the SRI website: <https://www.sri.com/blog/new-approach-fighting-flu>.

## SRI's International Development Work Went Full Circle in the Middle East

By Matty Mathieson

SRI's research and consulting activities in international markets have a long, distinguished history. While we have applied our expertise to address important problems in many countries, a good case can be made that our *major* global efforts in economic development began and have largely ended in Middle Eastern countries. To be sure, SRI's first international projects were in Italy and Cuba in 1950, and SRI did important small-business development assignments in India starting in 1955.<sup>1</sup> But SRI's significant development work started in the Middle East.

The first substantial activity was leading Saudi Arabia's efforts to prepare 5-year development plans, starting in 1968. SRI's performance was so strong that the Kingdom chose SRI to assist on four 5-year plans, spanning plan periods from 1970 through 1989.

I was fortunate to have participated in the final plan in the mid-1980s. As you can imagine, the working and living conditions were austere. Our team's workdays (6 days per week) lasted from 7:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. without a break even for lunch. A bit strange for us was the fact that the Planning Ministry where we worked had only men's bathrooms since there wasn't a woman in sight. After work, we would retire to our hotels for an evening of utter boredom because there was no English-language television and no outside entertainment whatsoever.

In 1969, SRI began a number of major consulting contracts in Iran, mostly dealing with energy and petrochemicals. Decades later, in the early 2000s, I was frantically called by SRI's lawyers seeking the SRI study that allegedly recommended to the prerevolutionary Iran government that the country should develop nuclear energy in order to preserve oil for income-generating exports. Fortunately for me, I knew nothing about that report. Presumably, the revolutionary government was citing the study and recommendation as the origin of the Iranian nuclear program.

By the mid-1980s, the Center for Science, Technology and Economic Development (CSTED), located in the Washington office, was the SRI unit responsible for almost

all the institute's international development activities. While some notable projects were conducted by the Center for Economic Competitiveness, CSTED carried out assignments in more than 130 countries throughout the world. The center thrived internationally, even as SRI's overseas offices closed and international business network programs (IIC, IAP, PBEC) were discontinued in the 1990s. We even survived an effort by former SRI President Bill Sommers to shut us down as he turned the institute's focus to domestic U.S. markets.

SRI's return to the Middle East came in the mid-1990s, with a series of CSTED projects in Egypt to promote private investments and exports. We had a project office and several staff members in Cairo. We also undertook an assignment in Yemen, and we were the first U.S. consultants to do development work in the West Bank/Gaza.

SRI's entry into Lebanon in 1998 started on a sour note. We were the first U.S. consultants to go into Lebanon, which had just emerged from a 15-year civil war and a travel ban on U.S. citizens. When I first arrived in Beirut, I was unceremoniously deported by AK-47-toting soldiers because I had an Israeli stamp in my passport necessary for our work in the West Bank/Gaza. I did not realize that Lebanon was still officially at war with Israel. I was put on a plane back to Egypt, where I had started the trip. Fortunately, a friend at the Cairo embassy helped me obtain a new passport over the weekend so I could return to Lebanon to meet with several government ministers.

SRI had an enormous presence in Lebanon for nearly a decade, working with the local business community to stimulate several industry clusters (tourism, agribusiness, and information technology) using a methodology we developed at SRI. We faced numerous obstacles but achieved real progress. At one stage after 9/11, because of security concerns the embassy supplied each SRI team with six bodyguards. Although our teams always felt safe, one event highlighted the potential risks. Our taxi driver, Abed, had driven a BBC reporter to southern Lebanon as Israeli troops were departing from their recent occupation. As Abed sat in his car waiting for the reporter to return and talking to his son on his cell phone, he was blown up by an Israeli tank.

As SRI's work in Lebanon wound down, we returned to Saudi Arabia in 2005. CSTED carried out major assignments to nurture knowledge-based industries, improve the Kingdom's research and development activities, develop the focus of King Abdullah University for Science and Technology, organize strategic planning at several Saudi universities, and

<sup>1</sup> SRI's global profile is well documented by Don Nielson in his *A Heritage of Innovation: SRI's First Half Century* (2004) and by Gordon Parker in "International Project History," an internal SRI document (1987).



design the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center.

SRI became the premier advisor to the Saudi equivalent of the U.S. National Science Foundation. Our Saudi portfolio was so robust that we opened an official SRI office, led by an SRI superstar, Sushanta Mohapatra, in Sharjah, one of the United Arab Emirates. We later moved the office to Dubai. From there, we branched off to do projects in other Gulf countries, including Bahrain, Oman, and Abu Dhabi. It was truly the golden era for CSTED and SRI in the Middle East, with SRI booking \$5 million in new projects each year.

SRI decided to close the Dubai office in 2013, which led to the inevitable dwindling of SRI's projects in the region. CSTED, recently renamed the Center for Innovation Strategy and Policy, continues to undertake international work, including a few projects in the Middle East. However, the heyday of SRI's presence in the region is over. The Middle Eastern nations can still benefit from the institute's expertise, so I hope some innovative initiative can rekindle the SRI-Middle East symbiotic relationship.

*Matty Mathieson served as director of SRI's Center for Science, Technology and Economic Development from 1985 to 2010.*

## The SRI Gargoyle: Have You Seen Spot Lately?

*By Don Nielson*

Sometime in mid-October 1980, a few members of the Bioengineering Research Center were returning from the cafeteria to their offices in Building E. Their path took them by a new and unusual feature of the P Building, then under construction: a set of pipes, perhaps 35 to 40 feet tall, that were to send into the atmosphere the “scrubbed” effluents from the exhaust hoods that sat over the chemistry benches in the various labs of the new building.

A member of the group—Dave Wilson—looked up at the stacks and for some reason thought they needed a gargoyle. Dave swears that thought was his main and perhaps only contribution to the effort, the design of which would immediately commence in the minds of the engineers present. What followed became part of SRI lore, secured by both its whimsical nature and the indefinite secrecy that participants swore. But “indefinite” is a long time, and the time has come for the truth to finally be revealed. So, following a lunch last April, arranged by Phil Green with Dave and Jamie Buxton, we can now reveal how a gargoyle suddenly appeared

one morning atop one of the new P-Building stacks! Figure 1 shows how the wonderfully conformal object looked from the ground. How do you suppose it got there without anyone's being aware and leaving almost no evidence?



*Figure 1. The gargoyle viewed from ground level (late 1980).*

So, the setting was the six pipes in Figure 1. They stood on top of a large underground room where equipment for air movement and treatment would eventually reside. At the time, however, the room was empty and accessible. Furthermore, the pipes were open to the room below, so the “project” could proceed with access to both the outside and the inside of the pipes, the latter via the underground room. To create the intended surprise, design and construction proceeded under cloistered wraps in the lab and installation under the cover of darkness. A half moon that night helped reduce the need for flashlights.

Jamie Buxton designed and built the gargoyle from a small piece of plywood and a lot of Styrofoam. Its rather classic form and detail are better shown in Figure 2. Most

of us associate gargoyles with grotesque architectural embellishments intended to ward off evil in Middle Ages European architecture. But they are much older than that and, in addition, served a very practical use: as downspouts to carry roof water away from the masonry walls below. SRI's gargoyle had no such spout, but it did have magnets embedded in its backside that attached it to the pipe at elevation. Jamie built all of it over a weekend. It had a 4- to 5-foot wingspan and weighed perhaps 15 to 20 pounds. Mounting it was the interesting next step.



*Figure 2. Photos of the gargoyle taken by Bob Schwaar (November-December 1980).*

At about 2 a.m. one mid-week night, the SRI team began the placement. Part of the team went inside the underground concrete box with a very long but light rope and a helium-filled balloon. (It may have been a surgical glove, but they can't remember.) They attached the long rope to the balloon, and near the point of attachment Jamie built a clever and simple device to pop the balloon: He bent a nail, sharpened at the point, and attached it to the rope just below where it connected to the balloon. The point of the nail was upward

toward the balloon, such that a sharp downward tug on the rope would cause the nail to pop the balloon. They then raised the small rope up through the pipe to an altitude over twice its height. That end fell to the ground outside the pipe after the balloon popped.

Outside, other members then attached the small rope to both ends of a larger rope that had first been threaded through an eyebolt at the top backside of the gargoyle. Those inside could then draw the larger rope over the top of the stack and down to where they could grasp it. They then hoisted the gargoyle up the outside of the chosen pipe. To keep the gargoyle's magnets from adhering to the pipe on the way up, they attached an inflatable bag to its back so that the bag lay between the pipe and the gargoyle. Accompanying this air sack was a small twine attached to a plug that could be pulled to let its air out.

Thus, the team pulled the gargoyle up the stack; at the height that the picture shows, the team pulled the plug on the air sack, and the magnets moved toward and clung to the pipe. Then team members inside and under the pipe pulled one side of the doubled lifting rope out of the eyebolt on the gargoyle, and they all left with barely a trace. The exception was the small twine or rope visible in Figure 2 taken shortly after its installation. When recently showed the image, Jamie couldn't recall the reason the small twine was left there.

The other members of the near-perfect caper crew were Dave Ramsey, John Holzemer, Gerry Russell, and Jon Taenzer. They swore each other to secrecy and purposely didn't tell their boss, Phil Green, so as to keep him immune to any repercussions. With normal SRI efficiency, the "project" lasted but two weeks from concept to implementation and at most one hour that night for its installation. Coincidental or not, the gargoyle appeared the day before Halloween, 1980!

There were a couple of wrinkles in the story of the gargoyle's emplacement. According to Jamie, they carried this project out just like any other SRI project—except that they gave absolutely no thought to how anyone might take the gargoyle down. Their creativity stopped with the installation. When asked whether the possibility of negative repercussions added to the allure of the event, the answer was no. They wanted only to pull it off! At some point during that installation night, a security guard came by. Team members on the outside jumped behind a nearby dumpster to avoid being seen!

So, the gargoyle was in place and apparently captured the fancy of the staff. After it was in place for some months, the staff had a Gargoyle Appreciation Day! According to the *SRI Journal*, a crowd of 200 came to support the gargoyle in any eviction threat it might face. As it turned out, the President at the time, Bill Miller, fancied the imagination of the new addition and even encouraged that celebratory recognition of it. A Dixieland Band was there, and a look-alike contest and a naming contest were held for both the gargoyle and its perch. According to the results in an *SRI Highlights* article of 23 January 1981, the name for the pipes with 46 percent of the vote was “Institubes” followed by “Gargoyle Heights.” For reasons a bit elusive, the gargoyle’s name became “Spot,” because—according to another article in an *SRI Journal* of 1984—it was the “least relevant” of the suggested names. Methinks given the gargoyle motif, the name should have been “Spout”!

After some months or maybe much longer, someone decided the gargoyle should come down. And here remains part of the mystery. Whether it was Facilities, with the aid of a crane or cherry picker, or, as indicated in the 1984 *SRI Journal*, another mysterious, staff-centered kidnapping ploy we don’t know. That same article quotes a self-styled highly informed source named “Deep Gargle” that it was done by a band of “gargoyle guerrillas.” So, as of now we don’t know where it went into hiding and, along with what follows next, that part of the mystery lingers.

On 30 June 1984, SRI decided to hold a Family Day at which the families of staff could become a bit more acquainted with the place. In honor of the occasion, the reincarnated gargoyle made a surprise appearance, even to the event’s leaders. There it was, on the north wall of Building B, overlooking the proceedings. And there it remained for some time. Eventually, presumably the installers returned it to its undisclosed storage place.

But the story goes on. About seven years later—about 1991—Roy Kornbluh was visiting Sandy Hinzmann when they both stumbled on it, Roy recalls, perhaps somewhere in the 200 series of buildings. Having heard of its legacy, he decided to resurrect it. So, visiting this saga again for the first time, he and Eric Shrader planned to restore it to its old home: the pipes. Some refurbishing of the gargoyle was necessary, including adding some new magnets to its back.

But this second installation had to be different, for the pipes were now connected to machinery and in continuous operation. Thus, the reinstallation had to occur completely



*Figure 3. The gargoyle participating in a planning group in July 1991. Sandy Hinzmann is conveying some instructions noted by Frieda Tomlin and John Cassie.*

from the outside. The plan was simple: to hoist it using two helium-filled balloons with two ropes to guide its ascent, keeping it centered and away from the stack lest the magnets take over prematurely.

At 3 a.m. on a Sunday morning, the two engineers guided the gargoyle upward. But then the unexpected happened. The target pipe was in use, with a strong stream of air exiting its top. When the helium balloons reached that point, they were drawn into the air stream (Bernoulli’s fault), and the whole contraption began to dance wildly around. Here Fate—perhaps Lady Luck—took over. Just as the helium support rope broke in the turbulence, the gargoyle slammed against the pipe and the magnets secured it—almost as if the whole arrangement had worked perfectly. The helium balloons flew off to who knows where. The two staffers then withdrew the guiding ropes and went home.

Although in the first installation the team hid from the security guard, in this case, according to Roy, the guards didn’t bother them even though they saw what was going on! Again, the cohorts had no plan for how to remove it. Again, it stayed in place for a while.

But this time there was no “appreciation day.” Fewer people fancied its presence, and it soon came down. Tom Little reminded me that this time was also testy for the institute—perhaps one of the more precarious in recent history. But Roy’s recollection is that the wind blew it down. In any case the gargoyle, now recovered, came to its present and presumably final resting place on the south wall inside Building R. (See Figure 4.)

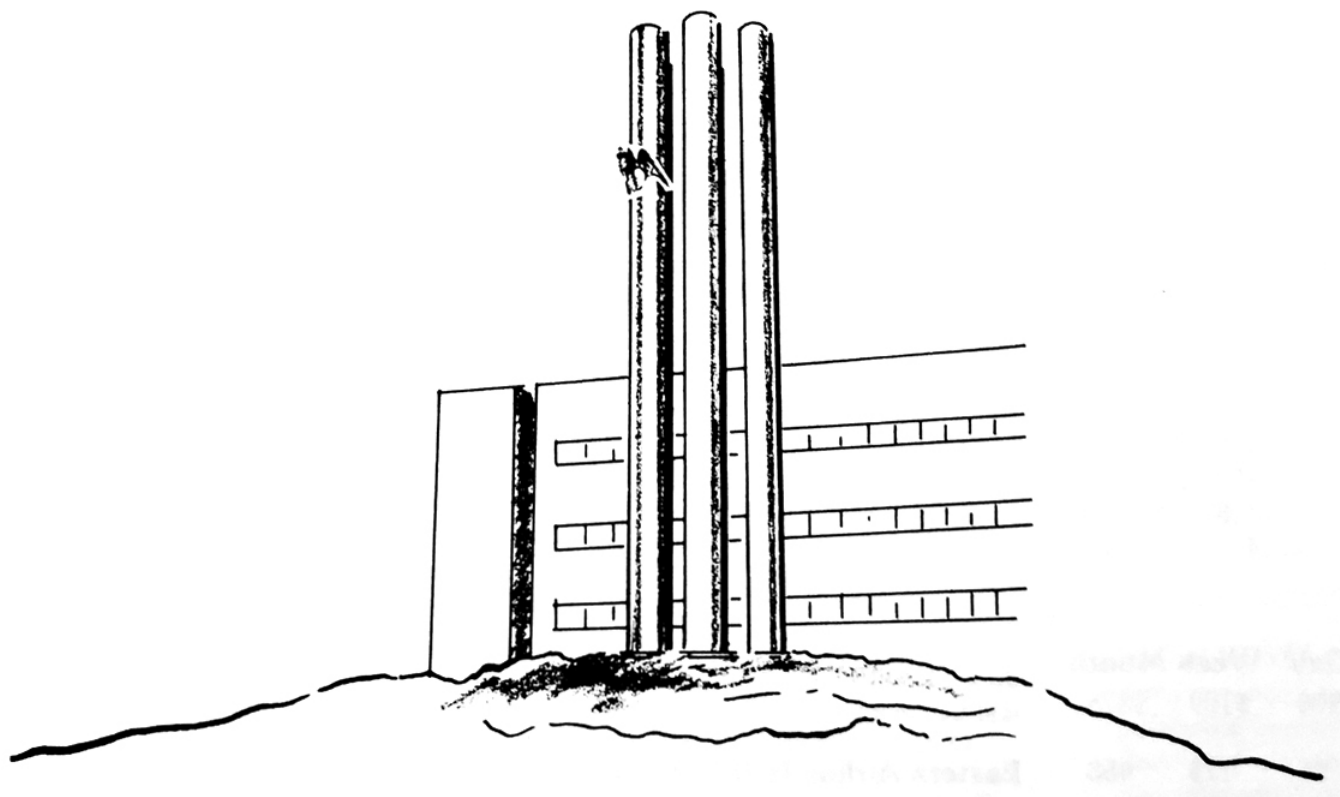




Figure 4. At home in Building R, awaiting a dental implant.

So, here was a very visible addition to the SRI scene. It had also gained some notice outside SRI—in, for example, the Newsprints section of the 30 June 1984 issue of the *Chemical and Engineering News*.

Finally, I know that when the gargoyle first went up, it caused a lot of people at SRI to create their own version of how anyone could have secured it at that height and so stealthily. Now you can compare your method against what really happened on that initial mounting. That we still don't know how or where it lived through its mid-life suggests that the SRI gargoyle will remain enigmatic: that is, unless any of you readers are complicit and willing to share your secret with the world. Perhaps it is not for us to know. Word is that it may reappear once more at the next Alumni Association Reunion and you can ask it yourself.





### **2016 Annual SRI Alumni Reunion and 20th Anniversary Celebration: September 15**

SRI Alumni Association members who will be in the Bay Area on September 15 are encouraged to come to the annual reunion in Menlo Park. 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 Steve Ciesinski, President, and Dr. Peter G. Neumann, Senior Principal Scientist in SRI's Computer Science Lab, will give a talk titled *Computer-Related Risks: A View of the Future from the Past and Present*. You can count on sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, excellent drinks, delightful conversation, and plenty of door prizes.

The charge is \$35 for each attendee. An invitation to the reunion and sign-up sheet is included with this mailing; members receiving electronic distribution will need to print the sign-up sheet from their email attachment. Please complete the sign-up sheet and return it with your check by September 9.

### **Alumni Association Membership Renewals Due by October 15**

It's almost time to renew your SRI Alumni Association membership for 2017. Membership renewal forms will be mailed to Association members in September. The fee is \$25 per member, due by October 15, 2016. All members who renew by mid-November will be included in the 2017 Alumni Directory, which will be issued in January.

### **An Opportunity to Contribute to an Interesting SRI Project**

SRI's Speech Lab has approached the Alumni Association to participate in an internal research project that will try to give SRI a preferred position in human-computer interaction. That project is the integration of information to supplement spoken-language recognizers such as Siri and thus make them more usable. As just one example, the project will explore real-time video to help establish both the context of the query and the disposition of the user while trying to make an online request. Using what the Lab calls "audiovisual analytics," the goal is to adapt to an online interaction quickly and accurately so as to improve both the accuracy of the interaction and the user experience.

Volunteer participants, age 65 or older, will come to SRI at a mutually agreed time to engage in one or more communication interactions (for example, buying an airline ticket). The session will last 60 to 90 minutes. The investigators will reveal no identifying information about the volunteers, and no procedures will be invasive.

Because we older folk rarely receive requests for anything except taxes and donations, here is a wonderful opportunity for you and, importantly, for the Association to help SRI. We very much encourage your participation. Many of us spend no small amount of our time trying to accommodate ourselves to emerging technologies and often find them frustrating. If you want the receiving side to become better at understanding what you want and ease or eliminate those frustrations, here is your chance to help.

Those of you who are interested and live within reasonable travel distance of SRI or have questions, such as about the time commitment, please contact Joe Rogers (joseph.rogers@sri.com), who is administering this recruitment. Although perhaps only a dozen or so volunteers will be necessary in the beginning, many, many more will be needed as progress becomes evident and statistical significance becomes important. I couldn't wait to apply.

*Don Nielson  
14 July 2016*



### **Wanted: Coordinator for SRI Alumni Association Newsletter**

The SRI Alumni Association is looking for a managing coordinator for its newsletter, which is published three times a year. The managing coordinator provides and collects the content for the newsletter, ensures that articles are edited, and coordinates newsletter production. This entails identifying the need for articles in the newsletter content areas and asking prospective authors for contributions, selecting articles on SRI projects and innovations from the SRI website, arranging to have articles edited by one of the Publications Committee's editors, and managing the publication process from draft materials to final production. The previous editors and the newsletter's current design/layout artist will be available to help train the new managing coordinator assuming this position.

To see past issues of the newsletter, go to the Alumni Association's website at <https://www.sri.com/about/alumni> and click on "Newsletter." If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering for this position or would like further information, please send a message to [steering-committee-alumni@sri.com](mailto:steering-committee-alumni@sri.com).



The SRI Alumni Association welcomes new members:

Linda Dousman  
Courtney Glavis-Bloom  
Mark Groethe  
Behjat Siddiquie  
Jean Claude Turret  
Sarah (Sally) Wurts Black

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

### **Wanted: Your Submissions**

We welcome articles and shorter items from all Alumni Association members to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Have you done something interesting or traveled to interesting places? Received any awards or honors? Your fellow alumni want to know! Please send items to [steering-committee-alumni@sri.com](mailto:steering-committee-alumni@sri.com).

### **Directory Addendum**

The enclosed directory addendum (covering the period April 1, 2016, to July 31, 2016) contains new members and corrections. Please add it to your 2016 Directory.



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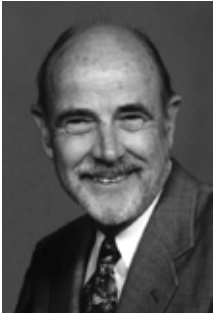
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**David R. Brown\***

David Brown, early computer-industry pioneer and a member of the SRI Alumni Association's Hall of Fame, died on April 16, 2016. He was 92.

David Randolph Brown was born on October 31, 1923, in Los Angeles, California. The family moved to Seattle, Washington, where David attended Queen Anne High School and the University of Washington. There he earned an electrical engineering degree and met his future wife, Sarah Jane (Sally) England. They married in Seattle on December 17, 1944. During World War II, David worked on the development of torpedo systems.

In 1946, he began graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he worked on a notable early computer, Whirlwind, and installed its ferrite magnetic-core memory. He earned a master of science degree and subsequently worked on the SAGE computer defense system at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory. He went on to work for the MITRE Corporation.

In 1963, Dave joined SRI as manager of the Computer Techniques Laboratory and later as head of the Information Science Laboratory. He did early work on artificial intelligence and robotics. His work at SRI took him to Japan, Italy, and Iran; he also spent two years (1976–78) in Washington, DC, serving on the President's Science Commission. Dave became a Life Fellow of the IEEE. Dave was appointed Senior Staff Advisor in 1991 and retired in 1993. He was inducted into the SRI Alumni Association's Hall of Fame in 2015.

Dave enjoyed fixing cars. He was also a master cabinetmaker and furniture builder. He enjoyed opera, light opera, American folk music, and the musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber. He even had an interest in avant-garde electronic music.

Dave was passionate about genealogy and worked as a volunteer at the Menlo Park Family History Center. With his wife, Sally, he wrote *A Biography of Mrs. Marty Mann: The First Lady of Alcoholics Anonymous* (Hazelden, 2001). Dave handled most of the research for the book.

Dave was a member of the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto and active in denominational affairs of the United Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Sally; his children, Ann, Polly, Ellen, and Philip; and his granddaughter, Lisa.

**Paul Carrick**

Paul Marshman Carrick passed away at his home in Aptos, California, on April 4, 2016. He was 89. He had lived in Aptos since 1982.

A World War II navy veteran, Paul contracted polio at age 26 but still managed to earn his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1954. Paul had a varied career in teaching and industry and came to SRI in 1968. He was a Senior Econometrician in the Industrial Operations Research Department.

Subsequently, he taught at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey from 1969 until his retirement in 1991.

His wife, Martha, predeceased him. Paul is survived by his second wife, Patricia Carrick, and by the children of his first marriage: Sandra, Laura Ann, and Paul Marshman Carrick III. Other survivors include four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

*Abridged from an article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.*

**Charles Chlubna**

Charles "Chuck" Chlubna passed away peacefully on June 18, 2016, surrounded by family. He had worked in Security at SRI.

Chuck was born on June 7, 1940, in San Francisco, California. He attended San Mateo High School and was Captain of the cross-country team. He had a 30-year career in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1988 as a Chief Petty Officer. He worked as an

electrician and a security guard and joined SRI as a security professional in 2000. He retired from SRI in 2012 to his seaside home in Half Moon Bay, California, where he loved to exercise his dogs and read military novels.

Survivors include Linda, his loving wife of 45 years; sons Joseph (Sara) and Marc (Rosa); brother Richard; and sisters Sue Walden and Patti Anfibolo.

### Jon Eidelson\*



Jon Eidelson passed away suddenly on April 2, 2016, in Santa Barbara, California. He was 57.

Jon was born on June 23, 1958, in La Habra, California, the youngest of three children—the precocious youngest sibling. He grew up in Orange County and graduated from Troy High School.

Jon studied physics at the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his wife, Gayle, in their freshman-year dorm in 1976. In 1980, they moved to Menlo Park, California, where Jon joined SRI as a research physicist studying electro-optics in the Electromagnetic Sciences Lab in the Engineering Sciences Group.

Jon left SRI in 1982 to attend the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. He received an MBA in finance and management science in 1983. After business school, Jon moved to Santa Barbara, as senior vice-president for Warren and Selbert, Inc., a financial-software firm.

Jon's passion and hobby for over 25 years was genealogy—especially his and his wife's extended Jewish genealogy. He also enjoyed helping his children and their peers navigate the college-admissions process.

Jon is survived by his wife, Gayle; six sons: Michael, Joel, Ben (Anna), Aaron, Nathan, and Adam; and a daughter, Leah.

Other survivors include his mother and father, sister and brother, and a grandchild,

*Adapted from an article in the Santa Barbara News-Press.*

### John Hamm

John Hamm passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 28, 2016, at age 77.

John was an SRI employee from 1981 to 1991. At the time of his departure, he was a Senior Research Engineer in the Applied Electromagnetics and Optics Lab in Albuquerque. John made significant contributions to the study of lightning and electromagnetic pulses (EMP) and of ways to protect critical electronics from these phenomena. He and his SRI coauthors won the Summa Foundation Best Applied EMP Non-source Region Paper Award for 1984–85. John opened SRI's Albuquerque office to support continued research with Kirtland Air Force Base.

John left SRI to become an instructor at the University of New Mexico, where he continued to mentor future scientists and convince engineering majors to switch to math. John was also very active in the soccer community, where he was a coach, player, and official.

Survivors include his four brothers, Thomas (Joyce) of Marietta, Georgia; Joseph (Kathy) of St. Louis, Missouri; William of St. Louis; and James of Albuquerque; and two sisters, Margaret of St. Genevieve, Missouri; and Agnes of St. Louis.

*Written by Jeff Casper and Cathy Levinson for the SRI Scene, with additional information from the Albuquerque Journal.*

### Kenneth Harker\*

Kenneth “Ken” Harker died in June 2016. His SRI career began in 1981. He left in 1999 and was rehired in 2006. At the time of his retirement in 2015, he was a senior research engineer in ATSD. Before his time at SRI, Ken worked at Bell Labs and at Stanford University. Ken's interests included plasma physics and electromagnetic modeling. His recent work focused on radar scattering from dihedral structures. Ever the gentleman, he was always a pleasure to work with. He is survived by two daughters.

*Written by David Watters for the SRI Scene.*



**Richard Landis**

Richard Gordon Landis, a former member of the SRI International Board of Directors, passed away on February 14, 2016, at his home in Penn Valley (Nevada County), California, at the age of 95.

At the age of 15, Dick took a job picking prunes for California Packing Corporation (now Del Monte) in Yuba City, California, to earn money for college. He attended La Verne College in La Verne, California.

After college, Dick flew P-38s and P-51s for the Army Air Corps in World War II.

He rose through a succession of production-management positions at Del Monte Corporation, becoming president and CEO in 1978. He was also a director and President-Pacific for R. J. Reynolds until 1983.

Dick became a member of SRI's Board of Directors in 1977. He was named Director Emeritus in 1991.

Dick served on the boards of numerous other corporations and organizations, including Potlatch Corporation, Kaiser Hospitals, and Crocker National Bank.

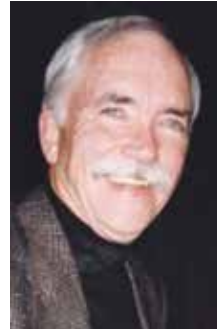
He was a trustee of the World Affairs Council and served as a Regent of the University of the Pacific, as well as the chancellor and a trustee of his alma mater, now the University of La Verne.

Dick was named the California Manufacturers Association's Manufacturer of the Year in 1981.

He was also active in the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, the Pacific Union Club, the Bohemian Club, the Rotary Club, and the National 4-H Foundation.

He leaves behind his wife of 72 years, Beth Throne Landis, his college sweetheart; sons Gary and Dennis; daughter Kay Landis Dillon; 9 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

*Adapted from an obituary in the Marysville (California) Appeal Democrat.*

**John McHenry\***

John McHenry, former Senior Vice President of SRI's Engineering Research Group and a member of the SRI Alumni Hall of Fame, passed away in Seattle, Washington, on May 9, 2016, after a brave five-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 81.

John was born in Seattle on March 25, 1935. After graduating from Lincoln High School, Seattle, in 1953, he joined the army and spent two years, mainly in Germany, with his wife, Deanna (Dee).

After returning to Seattle, he worked at Boeing while attending the University of Washington, where he obtained his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. Some years later, he earned an MBA from the University of Santa Clara.

John came to SRI in 1966 to work as a research engineer in the Systems Evaluation Department, focusing on radar and communications technologies. In the early 1970s, John pioneered the concept of "instrumented training" for the U.S. military forces. For the next 30 years, John built this concept into a sustaining SRI program that was instrumental in designing military training systems that mimicked actual combat conditions. These techniques are still in use today to train military pilots and provided the foundation for SRI's subsidiary Ravenswood Solutions.

In 1986, John became Vice President of the new Systems Development Division, creating the first systems engineering business at SRI. In 1990, he took over the Advanced Development Division, where work in ionospheric radar, ground- and foliage-penetrating radar, and lidar sensing came under his leadership. In 1992, John became Senior Vice President of the Engineering Research Group with responsibility for programs across five divisions.

John took a part-time position at SRI as senior technical advisor in 1998, and he and his wife, Dee, "retired" to their house at Lake Tahoe. There John continued his passion for skiing as a member of the ski patrol and teaching adaptive skiing. He also continued competitive sailboat racing.

In 2005, John was elected to the SRI Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. When he officially retired from SRI, John

and Dee returned to Port Angeles, Washington. There John continued with the ski patrol and sailboat racing, and he taught fourth-grade math at his grandchildren's elementary school. In his never-ending quest for knowledge, John in recent years reinitiated his study of quantum physics.

John is survived by his wife, Dee; son Jeff, his wife, Rosana, and their two daughters, Melissa and Natalie; and son Michael, his wife, Nancy, and their two children Kerri and Kyle.

*Based on an article by John Prausa, a friend and coworker of many years.*

### Robert Modler\*



Robert Modler, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, California, and a chemist in the Chemical Industries group, died peacefully at home on May 7, 2016. He was 76.

Bob was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on January 24, 1940. He grew up in Chicago, where he graduated from Taft High School.

Bob received a B.S. degree from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Minnesota in 1965. He spent a postdoctoral year in Lund, Sweden, where he met his wife, Siv. After returning to the United States, he spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, and then a year teaching at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

From 1968, he worked in the chemical industry at General Mills in Minnesota and Kraft Foods in Illinois. In 1978, he accepted a position as research chemist at SRI, where he spent the next 26+ years. After an initial period as a laboratory researcher, he transferred to economic analysis in the Chemical Business Economics Group. In this group, he conducted a number of studies on the economic significance of various commercial chemical products. He specialized in soaps, detergents, and other surfactants, establishing himself as an industry-recognized expert in the specialty-chemicals field. He retired in 2004 as a Senior Consultant in the

Health and Performance Chemicals Center of the Process Industries Division and continued to work part-time until 2010.

Bob had a wide variety of other interests, ranging from history, politics, and current events to railroad lore—including model railroads—to classic films and hiking in the great outdoors.

While at Lewis and Clark, Bob developed a deep love for the Pacific Northwest—central Oregon, in particular—that would endure until the end of his life. He often visited Black Butte Ranch, where he owned a partial share of a home.

His wife, Siv; son, Michael, now residing in Vietnam; grandson, Harvey; and brother, John Modler and family of Baltimore, survive him.

### Joan Condon Paul



Joan Condon Paul passed away on January 31, 2016, at her home in San Mateo, California. She was 74.

Joan Condon's early years reflected her family's army life; she attended schools in Europe and ultimately graduated from San Mateo High School. She attended universities in Oregon and San Francisco.

In 1967, Joan joined SRI as a Secretary in the Controller's Office. She soon met Mike Paul, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a navy fighter pilot, whom she married in 1970. She was an Executive Assistant in Information Systems Services when she left SRI in 1975.

The couple loved to travel, and they lived in Paris, France, for two years. Joan enjoyed volunteering at Sequoia Hospital and at the Coyote Point Museum. Some of her favorite interests included home design and decoration and the art of the theater.

Joan is survived by her sister, Barbara Sonsini, and her niece, Alison Sonsini Turner of San Francisco, California.

### Elmer Robinson

Elmer Robinson passed away peacefully on April 24, 2016, in Medford, Oregon, at age 91. He had a long and successful atmospheric-research career. In 1968, as a meteorologist at SRI, Elmer was one of the first scientists to link the burning of fossil fuels to the possibility of global warming.

Elmer was born October 3, 1924, in Los Angeles, California. The family moved to Glendale, California, where Elmer graduated from Hoover High School. He served as a Second Lieutenant in World War II and later graduated from UCLA with a B.S. and an M.S. in meteorology. In 1947, he married Clara E. Wilkinson, also of Glendale.

The newlyweds moved to the San Francisco peninsula, and Elmer began his career with SRI in 1948 as an Associate Meteorologist. He served until 1957. He was rehired as a Program Manager in 1960. He conducted research in climate science in such far-flung locations as Alaska, Greenland, and Antarctica. The Greenland research involved analysis of ice cores dating back thousands of years. Historical trends of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> could be determined from this ancient ice. In Antarctica, Elmer worked on measuring the hole in the earth's protective ozone layer.

In 1972, Elmer left SRI to accept a professorship at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. In 1985, he joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and was appointed Director of the Mauna Loa Research Observatory in Hawaii.

Elmer retired in 1996 and moved to Medford in 1999.

He is survived by his wife, Clara, his devoted partner for 68 years; sons Douglas of Pullman, Washington, and Scott of Los Alamos, New Mexico; daughter Cynthia Wiegand of Parker, Colorado; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

*Adapted from an obituary that appeared in the Medford Mail Tribune.*

### Bill Rose



Major William Hunter Rose, retired USAF, 82, died at his home in Sonoma, California on April 11, 2016.

Bill was born October 26, 1933, in Seattle, Washington, and graduated from Everett High School in Everett, Washington.

A graduate of Western Washington College of Education with a bachelor's degree in education, he received his MBA at the University of Nebraska while serving in the U.S. Air Force at Omaha, Nebraska. Bill served in the USAF from 1956 to 1977 as navigator and electronic warfare officer, flying 186 missions over Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war.

Following his retirement from the air force, Bill worked at SRI from 1977 until 1981. He was a scientific programmer/mathematician in the Electromagnetic Sciences Laboratory.

Bill later worked at Metronics Corp. and ESL and retired in 1999 from TRW. Bill is remembered for his belief that "You can never go wrong when you allow the other guy to save face."

Survivors include his son Kevin and five grandchildren of Concord, California.

*Adapted from an article that appeared in the Sonoma Index-Tribune.*

### James Victor Rowney



Captain James Victor Rowney, USN (Ret.), died on February 15, 2016, in Pleasanton, California, at age 98. He served 12 years at SRI following a long naval career.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1917, "Vic" was a 1941 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he lettered in football and lacrosse.

During the first year of World War II, he served on the USS *Enterprise* in the Pacific, seeing action at Pearl Harbor,



Midway, and around Guadalcanal. He received his pilot's wings in 1943 and flew the F6F in the Atlantic Fleet. In 1945, he flew the F4U off the USS *Yorktown* over Japan. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

Vic attended the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, and received an M.S. in aeronautical engineering at the California Institute of Technology. He served in the Korean War on the USS *Philippine Sea*, flying the F4U4 and commanding an F9F Panther jet squadron. He was awarded the Bronze Star and four Air Medal stars.

Following Korea assignments, Vic test-piloted the XF4D, the navy's first supersonic fighter, and commanded Carrier Air Group 7 aboard the USS *Saratoga*.

He served as head of the Aeronautical Engineering Department at the Naval Postgraduate School. Following service as Carrier Division 7 Operations Officer in 1961, Vic became the Director of Science and Engineering and Assistant Dean at the U.S. Naval Academy from 1962 to 1965. From 1965 until his retirement from the navy in 1969, Vic served as Base Commander at Point Mugu Naval Missile Range in Southern California and at Moffett Field Naval Air Station in Mountain View, California.

Vic joined SRI in 1968 as a Systems Analyst in the Strategic Studies Center and later in the Center for Strategic and Tactical Systems Analysis in the Systems Research Analysis Division. He retired from SRI in 1980.

Following the death of his wife of 56 years, Dorothy Edelman Rowney, in 1999, Vic married the late Betty Goff Cartwright in 2003. Survivors include sons David and James H., four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Vic's eldest son, John V. Rowney, also a naval aviator, died in 1980.

*Adapted from an article in the East Bay Times.*

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\*Member of the SRI Alumni Association

## Susan Savage Sargen



Susan Savage Sargen died on June 18, 2016, at age 73.

Susan Savage was born in Reno, Nevada, in 1943 and lived there through high school. She entered Stanford University in 1961 and earned an undergraduate degree in mathematics. In 1965, she was one of two women accepted into

Stanford's Ph.D. program in economics, where she received a master's degree and completed all requirements for a Ph.D. Her thesis topic was the use of computers to assist instruction in low-income areas. Susan joined SRI in 1969 as a Research Analyst in the Center for the Study of Social Policy. She married economist Nick Sargen, whom she had met in graduate school, and left SRI in 1971.

She took a research position with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In 1978, the family moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey, with their two sons, and she accepted a consulting position with the Educational Testing Service in Princeton. When she gave birth to twin boys in 1979, she suspended her career to raise her family.

Susan redirected her life to volunteer work supporting people in need. She played important roles in the food bank program in Paterson, New Jersey, and volunteered in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Susan and her husband were in the process of moving to Keswick, Virginia, where they had built their retirement home, when she was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer.

She is survived by her husband and their four sons—Daniel, Peter, Timothy, and Paul—and five grandchildren.

At press time, we learned of the death of John Lomax\* on July 23. John retired in 1988 as a Senior Research Engineer in the Information and Sciences Center of the Engineering Research Group, after a 31-year career with SRI. He was 90. A full obituary will appear in the December 2016 SRI Alumni Newsletter.

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

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