

SRI Alumni Association

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

Voicemail: 650-859-5100

Email: steering@srialumni.org

Web page: srialumni.org

www.linkedin.com/groups/2848919/

Archive: <https://www.srialumni.org/newsletters>



Message from Don Nielson

If you've ever chosen to move, you know how difficult it is. Now, imagine an Institute that has been on one spot since just after its genesis in 1946. As they used to put it, that's fourscore years of settling in, of building a home, and of leaving a mark on the world. SRI's branch offices around the world have come and gone, but the Menlo Park headquarters was always this comforting anchor.

But inertia and nostalgia notwithstanding, breaking the shackles can sometimes offer opportunities for more efficient operation and better-suited accommodations. SRI's future home, the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) campus, has a stunning hillside location with a view out to the Bay and into the future. So, here we go...

From the ongoing SRI project logbook you will find interesting and meaningful work, plus the research partnerships it has garnered to help them occur. First, we describe an almost incomprehensible approach to producing nutritional food for disaster relief or military missions without waste or transportation costs. Making it tasty and gaining FDA approval are remaining needs.

We also feature a couple of articles about AI. One is a project from ARPA-Health that endeavors to bring better healthcare to our perennially underserved rural population. The second is a pointer to a YouTube interview by SRI's Susan Patrick about one of the most critical questions in AI's evolution: How does it get profitably integrated into our personal and professional lives?

In the History Corner we acknowledge the half century since the first demonstration of the protocol that is the foundation of all that moves on the Internet. You'll take a little trip to an 1852 watering hole that SRI chose to show how internetworking could transparently span both radio and wired computer networks. And if you wondered what some of your tireless Alumni colleagues were up to for over two decades, dip into the second account to see how one of our Association long-term commitments played out.

Then there is dear Peter Neumann, whom I and countless others had known for what seemed forever. His colleague in the Computer Science Lab, Ulf Lindquist, offers some wonderful, personal reflections. Briefly, Peter found an essentially lifelong spot in studying the inability

of computing to reliably meet its obligations of safety. I helped sponsor some of his collection of computer foibles that gathered to him because his cause was so broadly known. Please read about pan-talented Peter; you'll be glad you did. Then read about another multi-talented alum in a detailed account of Mike Cohen.

Finally, there is a short reflection on the fun and well-attended Spring Fling, plus details on the upcoming reunion on September 17. Please plan on being there, and submit your reservation now! Included at the reunion will be an update from David Parekh on SRI's home-to-be and on the Institute's health.

On the last page, we solicit your help in nominating people to the SRI Alumni Hall of Fame. We can't do it without you!



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FEATURED ARTICLE

SRI Relocation and Menlo Campus Redevelopment

A recent [press release](#) announced that the SRI Menlo Park headquarters at 333 Ravenswood Ave., which SRI has occupied since 1947, will be moving to the facilities now occupied by the SRI-owned Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). PARC is located in the Stanford Research Park, about 9 miles or a 20-minute drive from SRI-Menlo Park. The move, which coincides with SRI's 80th anniversary, will include refurbishment and modernization to equip the campus for future research.

"In 2023, we acquired PARC, and now, with this exciting move, we are combining expertise across quantum, biosciences, education, AI, robotics, and more in one place," said David Parekh, SRI CEO. "This campus will also serve as the hub for our innovation network of startups and international collaborations."

The move to PARC is slated to take place in 2027, after which the Menlo Park campus will undergo a massive facelift. In the original redevelopment scheme, SRI had planned to maintain three existing buildings on the Menlo Park campus. The recent decision to move SRI to PARC will result in more financial resources for SRI and a more streamlined redevelopment effort for the campus it is leaving behind.



PARC campus in Stanford Research Park. Image from SRI International.

[The Almanac](#) reports that Lane Partners of Menlo Park has been working with SRI and the City of Menlo Park to plan the redevelopment, called Parkline, that will convert the roughly 64-acre site into a walkable neighborhood between Ravenswood and Middlefield that features new homes, shops, and open space. Lane Partners has recently amended its plans for Parkline to include taller buildings, less office space, and a total of 1,082 housing units, 293 of which will be affordable housing.

According to Lane Partners, the new plan continues to honor the core commitments the Menlo Park community helped define: adding needed new housing, affordable housing options, inviting green spaces, safe bike and pedestrian trails, and features important to neighbors.

The site plan will feature five dedicated, publicly accessible open spaces offering a variety of amenities around the housing, and a retail village on the ground floor of the office buildings. Approximately 1,100 trees will be replaced; 228 heritage trees will remain untouched.

To make room for all of this new development, the commercial space on the campus will get taller and denser. The office buildings, located near the center of the site, will be as tall as 10 stories, or 150 ft high. The multifamily buildings will range from three to six stories (40 to 70 ft). The offices will share 1,800 parking spaces in two garages.



Parkline plan overview. Image from Lane Partners.

The first phase of construction will produce the two largest apartment complexes at the corner of Ravenswood Ave. and Laurel St. The second phase will build the remaining residential structures and recreational area. The third and final phase will complete the four office buildings and retail village. The estimated cost and timeline for construction have not yet been shared.

Lane Partners' initial proposal, submitted in October 2022, included almost 1.4 million sq ft of office and research space, a number that has dropped significantly in response to residents' concerns. The newly submitted plans shrink office space to 900,000 sq ft.

The 2026 plan adds 282 homes to help meet the city's housing goals. The new units are townhouses and single-family homes for sale. In total, the project now proposes 108 townhouses and 220 single-family homes, which includes 98 houses on small lots. The plans for 754 for-rent multifamily units are unchanged.

The Almanac reports that Lane Partners' Parkline lead is hoping the city can review and approve the updated plans within about 12 months, with demolition targeted to begin before the end of 2027. Going forward, the City will schedule public hearings to give neighbors and housing advocates a chance to provide feedback on one of Menlo Park's biggest transformations in years.

Sources: <https://www.sri.com/press/sri-to-relocate-silicon-valley-headquarters-to-its-parc-campus/>; <https://www.almanacnews.com/menlo-park/2026/06/12/change-of-plans-research-campus-to-leave-menlo-park-make-way-for-more-housing/>; <https://hoodline.com/2026/06/menlo-park-research-icon-gets-bulldozed-for-1-082-new-homes/>; <https://sfimby.com/2026/06/significantly-modified-masterplan-revealed-for-parkline-menlo-park.html>; email from Lane Partners to Menlo Park residents, June 13, 2026

HISTORY CORNER

SRI Archives Compiled by the Alumni Association

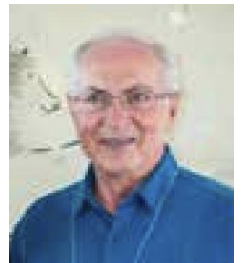
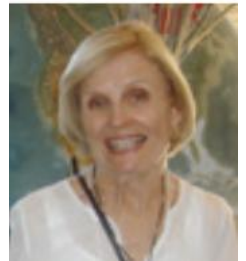
By Don Nielson

Historically speaking, SRI has two repositories. One is the huge formal repository that contains all the files associated with the projects SRI has ever conducted. The other, much smaller, repository contains non-project history consisting of staff directories, annual reports, organization specifics, public releases, and other material. But the elephant in the room is the thousands of pre-digital images from the start of the Institute, in negative and contact print form, representing both project and overhead work. All of the files in this repository seemed to cry out for help, especially these images. The digital age had left the analog images to languish, and the Photography Department had been eliminated.

When the SRI Alumni Association began its work with archiving SRI materials, this smaller repository consisted of two unrelated sections: the collection of images

mentioned above that was the legacy of Central Staff's Photography Department, and a couple of file cabinets of "other paper stuff." So, over the course of the last two decades, some dedicated alums pitched in for one morning a month to help with the endless task of bringing order and "locate-ability" to what was there and to search for and compile all that would appear over time. It was a thankless task unless you believed in preserving SRI history and that someone would someday want the material for research or for a book. The photo collage below shows many of the folks who so generously helped along the way.

During that time, we were able to organize and re-box thousands of 4x5-in. negatives and 35mm positives. The Photography Department had not adequately identified and labeled them, so we had to rely on other means to identify subject matter when it was requested. One means was the large number of contact prints that Photography had made. We placed them in over 50 large binders, grouped according to chronology, project number, or overhead org. Locating project-related images was eased a bit using information from the formal SRI project repository mentioned above. We also purchased a converting viewer that enables us to easily view negatives.



SRI alumni archives team in 2008. Left to right: Gordon Newell, Laszlo Jubos, Dorris Miller, Bob Dawson, Lee Hall, Elmer Reist, Don Nielson. Other major contributors were Karen Bailey, Ed Davis, and Jake Feinler

All of this material was easily accessible at SRI to staff or alumni until earlier this year, when everything regarding accessibility changed. A few years ago, SRI hired a new director of Public Relations, and as part of his orientation I introduced him to the Alumni organization and the above archiving effort. In addition, I took him to the Computer History Museum (CHM) to show him the SRI presence there. After some time, and without any discussion with me, he arranged for CHM to receive essentially all the above material our association had assembled! The only exception was video tapes and 16mm film, the cataloguing of which was brought to a halt when COVID hit and we were denied access.

Part of the CHM agreement, I was told, was that the Museum over time would scan all the material and make it available online—certainly a laudable goal. CHM was interested in SRI's notable contributions to the computing world, and indicative of that respect was the fact that CHM had offered the same arrangement to only two other organizations, one of which was Apple.

Some months passed before the physical relocation occurred and, with the new director of Public Relations now gone, our Scott Seaton and SRI's David Stringer-Calvert helped CHM staff decide what was to be relocated. The advantage of this move is that SRI's history is now in the hands of a very capable museum, with long-term storage and access to anyone wanting to gain historical knowledge about SRI. The very real downside, however, is the lack of easy access, such as even getting quality images from the archives for this article.

Here is the current accessibility protocol as I understand it: The SRI material is now housed in the CHM warehouse in the East Bay. Its accessibility is defined by the availability of CHM personnel during their business hours. Their accompanying presence is required, as is 10 days' advance notice. There is no borrowing allowed, but copying is available. To be useful, however, someone must develop the necessary aspects of accessibility, knowing exactly what is there, and how to make that information available, such as online or otherwise. This will take the best of intentions on both sides (SRI and CHM), plus the necessary resources (i.e., volunteers and funding). Whenever those resources are in short supply, we must be selective about what gets digitized and placed online. While the CHM will have some say in that, the strategy for prioritization lies with us and will require an SRI-wide understanding of the Institute's past. Although ordering and making the printed material searchable may be relatively easy, prioritizing the photographic imagery will be very difficult.

This short-term disruption to easy access does come with some significant long-term upsides for future access and identification that deserve mention. Once CHM gets the materials scanned as planned, our ability to search them will be greatly enhanced. We should be able to apply detailed, AI-assisted searches for text and photos from our homes that will enable us to work much faster than we

could manually. This might even turn up details we would have missed otherwise. The Alumni Association can help this become a reality sooner if we can find volunteers to help with the scanning and the fundraising to do so.

Some years ago, the spouse of volunteer Laszlo Juhos was part of a small team that was trying to save the archives of the Beckman Labs, a well-regarded company on Page Mill Road in Palo Alto. With that facility gone, they needed space to house and catalogue their material, and I got SRI to let them use some space in Building A. After some years of work, Beckman archivists persuaded the Chemistry Society of America to accept the result of their effort. They were overjoyed, and I was happy for them too.

So... why am I not completely happy with SRI's arrangement with the CHM? It simply amounts to convenience. Writing history begins with access, and if there are too many moats to cross, it simply won't happen.

The previous Alumni Team has created a magnificent repository, and now it needs the scanning and processing it deserves. This CHM collaboration does come with some challenges – it is not a self-fulfilling prophecy. However, with the appropriate support from the Alumni Association and SRI, it provides the best chance to preserve our amazing legacy, have it committed to the annals of history, and not get lost to posterity—or worse, to property development.

A wise Ivor Brodie, director of an SRI lab that once reported to me, once mentioned a compelling and motivational dictum that I'll never forget: "If it isn't written down, it didn't happen!" Even in this day of incalculable ways to store happenings, it still rings true!

50th Anniversary of the First TCP Demonstration

By Don Nielson

The Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) is the lifeblood of the Internet. It is the protocol, first defined in 1975, that enabled computer networks of dissimilar nature to seam together in ways invisible to its end users. That transparency and dissimilarity would extend over time to virtually all transmission media. It would also cover the world with a new, affordable web that would bring digital capability to everyone. Although bringing forth the modern Internet involved innumerable far-flung talents, there was one place and time where the Internet first saw the light of day—and SRI was involved.

It was August 27, 1976, and the new DARPA-funded packet radio project, the first mobile digital radio network, was linked through the 7-year-old wired ARPANET to its only hosts speaking TCP, one each in Boston and Los Angeles. The initiating terminal was in the West Bay

foothills, and the bridge was the first TCP internetworking gateway located at SRI. Both the ARPANET and the PRNET had lots of contributors that made the connection possible, but SRI was the place of convergence for the PRNET, as it had been earlier for the ARPANET. TCP lab testing had reached the point where a real-life demonstration seemed appropriate.

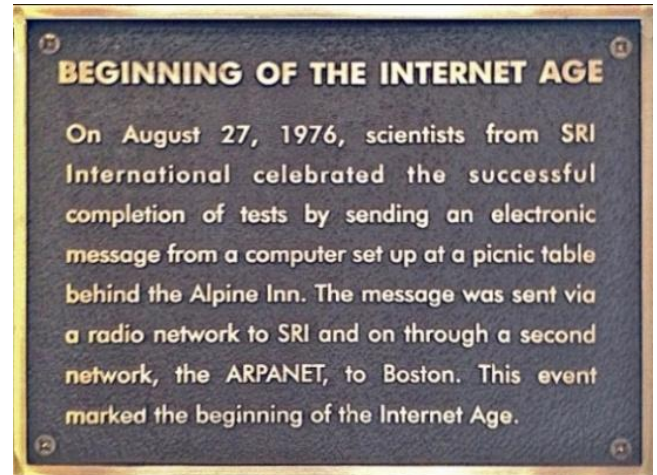
It was Ron Kunzelman, one of the SRI leaders in PRNET development, who suggested Rossotti's (now named Rossotti's Alpine Inn), a popular watering hole in Portola Valley, west of the Stanford campus. SRI's mobile bread truck van, containing both a packet radio and a TCP-housing microprocessor, had radio visibility from Rossotti's to a PRNET repeater node atop the ridge on which also sat the big SRI-Stanford dish. It was one radio relay to the gateway and satisfactory for the two networks to work fully in tandem.

The task chosen for the test was the delivery to DARPA of the monthly progress report on the PRNET, a very lengthy transmission. The test/demo was successful, and we buttoned up. It was just a slightly more noticeable day in SRI research that was promptly forgotten. Fortunately, and with little anticipation, I took a few pictures.

Almost exactly two decades later, as the digital world and the Internet blossomed, the inquiries began to appear around its genesis. One of these came to me from the IEEE Spectrum, and I was forced to dig out what I could find. In short, it led to that day at Rossotti's and to recounting a bigger demo in November 1977 that also included a satellite link and other gateways.

Somewhere along the way, a small bronze plaque appeared on the wall at Rossotti's commemorating that event, later to be replaced by a larger one, shown here,

placed now on the front of the building by the California Historical Society, according to a Rossotti's manager at a recent event. The event saw me taking a few visiting relatives to lunch there, where I left for the owners a written story of that 1976 day. The aim was also to give the somewhat blustery account on the plaque some grounding. For my effort, I am now the proud owner of a Rossotti's cap and not much else, except serendipitous memories. 50 years have gone quickly.



Included below are some relevant images, beginning with a diagram of the network connection for that day as shown in a PRNET progress report. Following are pictures of the Alpine Inn, the SRI packet radio van, the submission of the lengthy weekly report to DARPA and our fellow contractors, and the assemblage of project people there for the occasion. These photos likely form the only memories we have of that first ceremonial TCP transmission

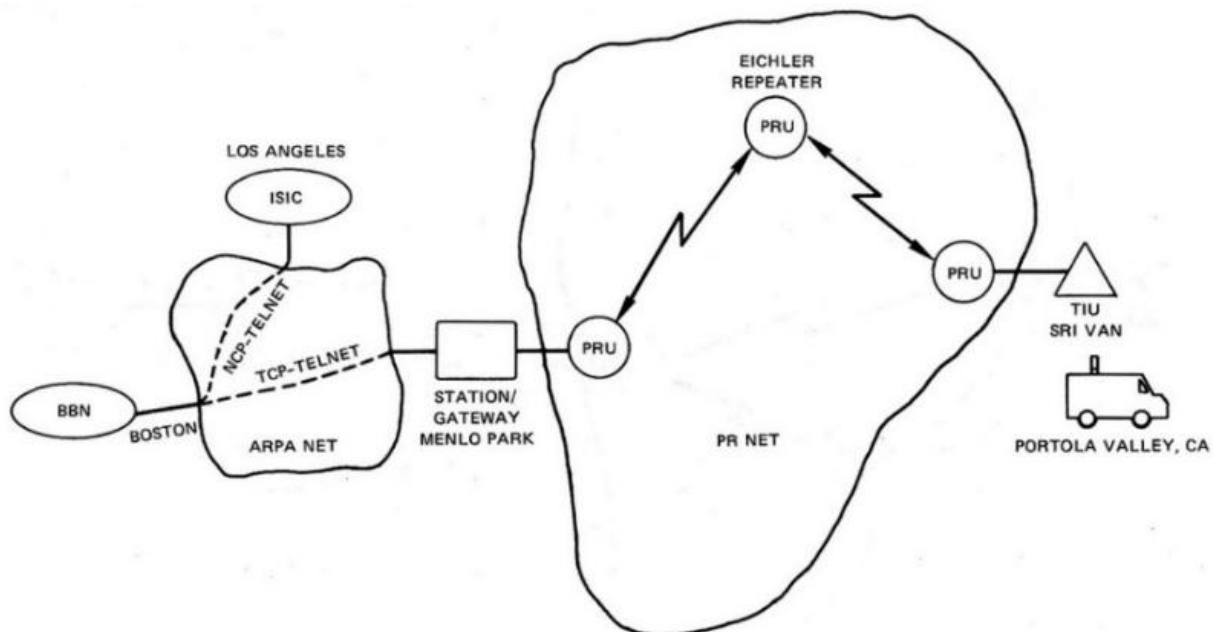


FIGURE 1 FIRST WEEKLY REPORT BY RADIO



Rossotti's



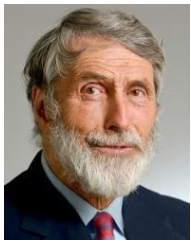
The packet radio van



Submitting the DARPA report



SRI staff (left to right): Don Cone, Mike Berishinski (visitor), Niki Geannacopulos, Dave Retz, Ron Kunzelman, Jim McClurg, and Jim Mathis. Don Nielson took the pictures.



Recognizing the Life and Work of Peter G. Neumann

By Ulf Lindqvist

Peter Gabriel Neumann, known as PGN in his own shorthand signature, was a dear friend, mentor, and colleague to me and to many others at SRI and elsewhere. He was a scientist, punster, musician, and Multician. His remarkable professional career is well documented in obituaries in the [New York Times](#) and [Communications of the ACM](#), in the many professional publications he authored, [his own webpage](#), and a 75-page [oral history interview](#) from 2013. Here, I want to add some personal reflections about Peter and his impact on SRI and the world.

Peter cared. He cared deeply about the world, about people, about family, about technology and its risks, and about SRI. And Peter did not quit. When he recruited me to SRI he was in his sixties, and I was hoping I would get to work with Peter for at least a few years before his retirement. It turns out I didn't need to worry! He was still working at 93 years old, right up until he passed. He was still working on building trustworthy computing systems, the trail he had started in the 1960s with Multics at Bell Labs, and continued with many pioneering projects at SRI, culminating with the "clean slate" capability-based CHERI architecture he developed in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, which has the potential to eliminate most memory-safety issues that are the cause of many vulnerabilities. He also cared about language and grammar, and I know he would have edits to this article if he were still here! And he would sneak in a clever pun or a good rhyme or alliteration.

Peter built communities. He had a tremendous impact on the field of computing, our understanding of its risks, and on numerous lives and careers. Many people working in the field of computer and information security owe large aspects of their careers to Peter, myself included. As the editor of the popular RISKS Digest newsletter since 1985, Peter communicated with people all over the world who were curious about system trustworthiness and the widespread lack thereof. He supported students and young researchers by introducing them to the field and giving them advice and mentoring. He interacted with them at conferences and introduced them to other luminaries. In the Computer Science Laboratory (CSL) at SRI, Peter was a natural leader without formally being a manager. As just one example of his informal leadership, when I came to CSL in the late 1990s, there was a tradition to go to the Chinese restaurant Su Hong in Menlo Park once a week for a big group lunch. Peter would naturally take charge of the whole thing, rounding up the group and calling ahead to let the restaurant know the size of the party, on arrival exchanging some Chinese phrases with the wait staff, ordering the family style meal for the group by tallying the vegetarians and writing the order on the paper tablecloth,

making sure everyone including interns and visitors felt included in the conversation and welcome, and of course doing the math at the end of the meal to compute everyone's share of the bill. At the memorial for Peter on June 13, 2026, long-time CSL scientist and SRI Fellow Natarajan Shankar added that at Su Hong, Peter was treated like royalty and always got free desserts for his table, because Peter had convinced the restaurant to stop using MSG in the food due to his sensitivity to such additives, and the business boomed as a result. Peter also hosted a monthly "crypto lunch" at SRI for many years, where crypto meant cryptography long before cryptocurrency was even a thing. It was an opportunity for leading cryptographers and other interested researchers and practitioners to come together and informally discuss current topics under Peter's gentle guidance.

Peter spoke his mind. He frequently exposed flaws and risks, and relentlessly pointed out that critical system layers and components were not trustworthy. That is not something that those who build and sell systems appreciate hearing, but Peter only seemed encouraged by pushback. He knew that he was right and that his message was important. Peter didn't just note and catalog problems and failures; in fact, he worked throughout his long career to design methods and systems that would fix those problems and encouraged others to join in those efforts. There were many conferences where one researcher after another would present a paper on a new flaw or attack method, and every time, Peter would raise his hand and ask: "So how would you fix this problem?"

Peter loved music. Complexity in music was one of the many topics he discussed with Albert Einstein over breakfast in 1952, and Peter's love of music was apparent to anyone who knew him. Often when he left his SRI office for the day, he was headed to a rehearsal or concert with one of the musical groups he was part of. Peter and his wife, Liz, who met at SRI, played in Ye Olde Towne Band of Los Altos, with monthly summer concerts in Shoup Park. One day when I came to see Peter in his office, I noticed a CD jewel box on his desk with the title "Who Burnt the Bacon?", and he said "Oh yeah, that's the recording we made with Norah Jones." Curious, I ordered my own copy of the CD, and yes, you can hear Peter singing deep bass background vocals to Norah Jones on the track "Day and Night." He not only enjoyed playing and listening to music, but just like in his work, he supported the community. Peter made a \$4 million donation to the San Francisco Symphony to save its chorus, and he made it an open endowment to which other donors can contribute, supporting the chorus for generations to come.

Peter's legacy lives on. SRI and the world have lost one of the greats, but we are lucky to have had Peter in our lives. His commitment and dedication to what he believed was important should inspire us all. We need to continue to expose bad systems and continue to build better systems. We need to support communities and the next generation of researchers and professionals. Peter knew that our future depends on it.

NEWS FROM SRI

Producing Food from Air



An SRI-led team has succeeded in creating a nutrient-rich food product that can be scaled up for disaster relief or military missions in remote locations.

Transporting food can be a serious logistical problem for military deployments or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) in remote areas. Currently, these operations rely on Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) or Humanitarian Daily Rations, which require industrial manufacturing, processing, packaging, and shipping.

To address this problem, researchers at SRI have teamed with subcontractors Air Protein, Kiverdi, and Nitricity to develop a method for on-demand production of appetizing food made from water, air, and electricity. The project, called Food from Air for Distributed Rations (FADR), is part of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Cornucopia program, which seeks to demonstrate the ability to produce all four human dietary macronutrients (protein, carbohydrate, fat, and dietary fiber) in ratios that target Military Dietary Reference Intake (MDRI) daily requirements for complete nutrition.

“The team is developing a deployable food delivery system that creates enough food to feed 14 people per day for over a month,” said Elisabeth Perea, principal investigator and senior chemical engineer at SRI.

As food developers for the program, Air Protein and Kiverdi have produced a pudding sample that contains these four macronutrients, as well as a full suite of vitamins and micronutrients.

The FADR system requires two microbial bioprocess stages to create all of the necessary nutrients. Both processes consume fixed nitrogen from an innovative, compact system designed by Nitricity that requires only air and energy as inputs. Carbon is provided in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from an exhaust gas stream, inspired by SRI’s decades of experience in the field of carbon capture. In the first microbial stage, water and energy are used to isolate hydrogen and oxygen that are fed to microbes along with the CO₂ and fixed nitrogen to produce a protein-rich culture.

The final food product utilizes a portion of that protein as an ingredient, and the rest proceeds into a second stage to feed microalgae cultivated by SRI using a process designed to maximize carbohydrate production. The algae-derived carbohydrates and other essential vitamins and nutrients are combined with the protein and dried into a

nutritionally complete powder, with excess nutrients recycled back to the first step. The powder can be flavored and formulated into different types of foods, such as puddings, shakes, and jerky.

In the first phase of the program, researchers initially focused on synthesizing flavor molecules to generate a tasty biomass that could be tuned to whatever flavor profile was desired. For example, a molecule called limonene, produced by microbes, gave the pudding sample a citrus flavor.



The citrus-flavored pudding produced by the FADR process contains a full suite of macro- and micro-nutrients. (Photo: Air Protein, provided by DARPA, SRI.)

Trying to engineer the metabolism of an organism to precisely tune the production of each molecule and get it right each time is a significant challenge, in part because what gives food flavor is not usually single molecules, but rather a large number of molecules in a particular ratio with one another. Furthermore, the organisms can also create off flavors. To address this issue, DARPA has requested for the second stage of the project a neutrally flavored base food that can hold a variety of added flavors.

After the nutritionally complete powder achieves GRAS (Generally Recognized As Safe) status from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the FADR team plans to conduct taste tests with the food using human subjects. In the interim, to confirm that the food is neutral in flavor, Air Protein will use gas chromatography-olfactometry to separate individual molecules in a food sample and vaporize them for a trained person to smell, then adjust the production process to achieve neutrality.

“Smell and taste are so closely correlated that this is the gold standard for analyzing flavors without actually tasting them,” Perea said.

SRI is working to make all pieces of the FADR system as small and efficient as possible. The team is designing collapsible plastic algae bioreactors — one of the largest pieces of the operation — that can be shipped empty and expanded on site. Ultimately, the system will fit in the back of a compact military vehicle or container and resemble a combination of a microbrewery, algae farm, and commercial kitchen.

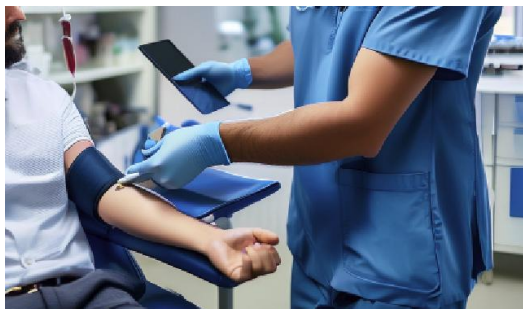
“Our goal is to feed people in remote locations on demand, using minimal inputs, and producing as little waste as possible,” Perea said.

If successful, the program could significantly reduce the logistical burden of food transportation associated with deployed military operations and HADR operations.

Sources: <https://defensescoop.com/2024/10/03/waste-to-value-inside-cutting-edge-darpa-efforts-to-make-food-out-of-trash-and-gasses/>; <https://www.sri.com/press/story/microbes-make-nutritious-meals-out-of-air-2/>; <https://www.darpa.mil/research/programs/cornucopia>

SRI Addresses Rural Healthcare Gap with AI Innovation

With support from the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), SRI researchers are building an AI-driven system designed to augment clinicians and transform rural healthcare delivery.



SRI has been working with [ARPA-H](#) to execute a bold vision for next-generation mobile healthcare. Rural healthcare options around the country are becoming more limited as hospitals and other care facilities close and consolidate. ARPA-H's [Platform Accelerating Rural Access to Distributed and Integrated Medical Care](#) (PARADIGM) program seeks to develop a technology-driven mobile platform that can deliver advanced hospital-level care to every rural county in America.

SRI researchers, in collaboration with partners including Mayo Clinic and the University of Florida, are building an intelligent task guidance system to augment the skills of healthcare workers in real time, enabling them to safely, accurately, and confidently perform clinical procedures typically performed by specialists. Recent user testing using clinical simulations indicates that SRI's approach solves some key problems that have hampered past efforts at next-generation medical task guidance.

A system that guides, monitors, and responds

This past year, the SRI research team has focused on building a task guidance system to direct users through a blood draw procedure. SRI's system integrates multimodal AI — including real-time computer vision, speech understanding, and procedural reasoning — to guide, monitor, and adapt to user actions. The system uses an overhead camera and a tablet-based interface to track each step of the procedure, confirm correct actions, flag errors, and tell the user what to do next. Much like in-person training with a specialist, it can provide what Tyan calls “reactive guidance,” allowing a healthcare worker to ask questions during the procedure, and “proactive guidance,” in which the system monitors performance and intervenes when needed.

“This work is possible because SRI brings together the combined expertise of multiple world-class technical labs,” says SRI program director Jason Tyan, the principal

investigator for SRI's task guidance work. “It speaks to SRI's unique ability to translate advanced AI capabilities into practical systems that improve clinical performance, enhance patient safety, and deliver real-world impact.”

Strong user satisfaction — and performance beyond target

The most striking year-one result may be usability. According to Tyan, the program's initial target was 50% user satisfaction. SRI's team far exceeded that benchmark. Based on the System Usability Scale (SUS), the system achieved an “A” grade, corresponding to a score of 85 and an estimated user satisfaction level of about 95%.

The users in this simulated blood draw procedure were medically trained participants (physicians, medical students, nurses, and clinical practitioners) but not specialists who routinely perform the task. That made the test especially relevant to PARADIGM's goals. Like the anticipated future users of the PARADIGM platform, these were people with clinical background knowledge, but not deep procedural repetition in that specific task.

The performance data were also promising. In one proficiency evaluation, participants using SRI's system achieved 97% accuracy in completing the simulated procedure. By contrast, a comparison group without access to SRI's AI-driven guidance system performed at substantially lower accuracy, around 65%.

The future: scalable, adaptive clinical intelligence

SRI plans to expand the system to support additional procedures while enhancing scalability and generalizability. A key focus is enabling rapid adaptation to new tasks with minimal additional training data, a key challenge for any human-machine guidance system. The opportunity is larger than a single demo or metric. If the PARADIGM program succeeds, mobile platforms will bring advanced care closer to the communities that need it most. SRI's task guidance system could enable any qualified healthcare worker to deliver specialist-level care, anywhere, anytime, through intelligent, real-time guidance.

Source: <https://www.sri.com/press/story/sri-addresses-the-rural-healthcare-gap-with-ai-innovation/>

AI and Humans



The Wall Street Journal tech columnist Christopher Mims and SRI Education's Susan Patrick discuss how AI can strengthen human agency.

In his new book, [How to AI](#), Christopher Mims investigates how AI is being adopted by real people. It seems that clearly the biggest benefits accrue to those who understand their domains deeply enough to ask better questions, push systems further, critically evaluate responses, and recognize when AI is wrong.

“AI rewards people who are good at teaching themselves.” — Christopher Mims

SRI senior education researcher Susan Patrick interviews Mims as he shares how experts are leveraging AI to improve productivity, strengthen workflows, and build organizational capacity — not by delegating judgment, but by extending it. Patrick translates cross-industry insights into what they mean for education. As AI use by students accelerates, what must education rethink? Where can AI advance education outcomes, and where should it be avoided?

Watch the full conversation on [YouTube](#) or listen to [the PARC Forum podcast](#).

Source: <https://www.sri.com/press/story/how-to-ai-parc-forum/>

SRI Announcements

Vergyri Promoted to Lead ICS



AI and speech technology leader brings more than two decades of experience to her new role.

SRI, celebrating its 80th year, announced the appointment of Dimitra Vergyri as President of its [Information and Computing Sciences \(ICS\) Division](#), effective immediately.

She has served as interim leader of the division since October 2025, guiding the division while continuing to deliver leading-edge innovations for SRI's customers.

“Dimitra has demonstrated exceptional leadership at SRI for 25 years at the helm of the [Speech Technology and Research \(STAR\) Laboratory](#), and I have every confidence in her ability to lead her team to new heights,” said SRI CEO David Parekh. “Her forward-looking approach to the challenges and opportunities in AI and computing is exactly what this team needs at this time in history.”

The division employs 200+ research and technical staff, including 55% PhDs. With \$100M+ average annual funding, the division is responsible for creating dozens of venture spinoffs. ICS hosts four world-class research labs: SRI's AI Center (which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year), the STAR Lab, the Center for Vision Technologies, and the Computer Science Lab.

“The promise of AI extends well beyond large language models — it requires systems that are trustworthy, transparent, and grounded in rigorous science,” said Vergyri. “That is where SRI brings decades of experience, combining foundational research with strong partnerships across academia, industry, and government to deliver real-world capabilities in autonomous systems, cybersecurity, and human language and vision technologies, and to extend AI in new application areas.”

Vergyri joined SRI in 2000 and has been leading the STAR Lab since 2015. Her expertise spans AI and

machine learning, speech and language processing, voice-based analysis for emotional and cognitive assessment, and multilingual technologies for low-resource languages. She previously served as an associate editor for the IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing and has published more than 50 papers in refereed conferences and journals. Vergyri holds a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The Johns Hopkins University.

Source: <https://www.sri.com/press/story/sri-appoints-dimitra-vergyri-as-president-of-information-and-computing-sciences-division/>

SRI Initiative in Japan



Japan's Global Startup Campus Initiative aims to promote innovation acceleration for deep technology startups making a global impact.

SRI has been chosen by the Japanese government to join the [Global Startup Campus \(GSC\) Initiative](#), a Japanese government program aimed at creating Japan-origin deep tech startups while attracting outstanding talents and investment from around the world. SRI will collaborate with the GSC team in Tokyo to accelerate Japan's deep tech startup ecosystem. SRI will lead two of the initiative's pilot efforts: the Venture Build Program and the International Research Program.

The GSC's flagship campus will be established in central Tokyo (Ebisu) to foster startup creation and enable rapid commercialization. The program will bring together top researchers, venture builders, and investors from around the world to discover and advance initiatives aimed at developing advanced technology solutions, from climate and sustainability to quantum computing and more.

“Today's news represents a significant opportunity to bridge Silicon Valley's innovation ecosystem with Japan's strong leadership focus to deliver impactful technology throughout the world,” said Peter Marcotullio, senior vice president of SRI's commercial business. “SRI's mission has always been to translate breakthrough research into real-world solutions that benefit society, and the Global Startup Campus Initiative perfectly aligns with that vision.”

SRI has been partnering with commercial and government customers in Japan for decades. Since 2021, the [Nomura-SRI Innovation Center](#) (NSIC) was inspired by the opportunity to further strengthen connections between Japan and Silicon Valley through innovation services. Today, SRI's programs and innovation leadership help organizations redefine the boundaries of innovation.

Source: <https://www.sri.com/press/story/sri-tapped-by-japanese-government-to-establish-venture-initiative-and-attract-researchers/>

SRI ALUMNI NEWS

Annual Alumni Reunion September 17, 2026

[RSVP](#)
RESERVATIONS:
srialumni.org/events/

 OR: email to steering@srialumni.org

SRI International Building
4 – 7 pm
4-5 pm: Socializing, food, drinks, & dessert

5-6 pm: Talk by CEO David Parekh and potential Hall of Fame Awards

6-7 pm: Door Prizes

RSVP by September 8, and the reunion is free for current alumni members + one guest, additional guests \$25 each. Paying guests who are eligible to join but not current members will get one free year of association membership.

RSVP after September 8, and the charge for SRI alumni will be \$10, any guest \$25 each.



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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. New Money is defined as funds not currently on deposit with SRI Federal Credit Union. Rates, terms, conditions, and promotional offers are subject to change without notice. Early withdrawal penalties may apply.

Spring Fling 2026 Photos

The 2026 Spring Fling deserves a big hand (with a theme of tiny hands), thanks to event committee co-chair, Ann Johnston! Over 60 people attended the event, which was held in the I Building at SRI in Menlo Park. The festivities included a short talk by SRI President David Parekh, a lovely lunch, and, back by popular demand, a trivia game. Patti Price filled in for Scott Seaton (performing jury duty) as MC. At registration, attendees were asked how many years they had worked at SRI. The winner was Donna Davidson at 58 years, with Jan van der Laan a close second at 57. Don Nielson logged 49 years at SRI, though he also has over 15 more years of service as a volunteer. The total number of years of service for all attendees was 1694! David Israel's team "Maximum Lethality" won the trivia contest. In addition to the photos below, the Patts provided a few more at: srialumni.org/events/img/fling/2026



Where Are They Now?

Mike Cohen



By Patti Price

Mike Cohen is a pretty common name. The one in focus here used to joke that there could be a Mike Cohen jazz quintet made up of only musicians named Mike Cohen. In fact, it's probably true. Since his childhood, Mike has been passionate and adept in

both music and science. Mike attended high school at Brooklyn Tech, studying electrical engineering while he played in a rock band and studied jazz guitar. At Stony Brook University in New York, Mike studied counterpoint and science and transferred to Berklee College of Music to focus on guitar and jazz. After graduation, he became a full-time musician. He jokes that his life as a musician ingrained in him the idea of never turning down a gig... which makes him perpetually busy.

Mike was pretty successful as a musician. He was asked by the Haitian band Volo Volo to compose a horn section for their album. He wrote the horn parts and also found the musicians to play those, working with Volo Volo for about a year and a half. Another Haitian song writer, Jean-Claude Martineau, also asked for Mike's help, resulting in another successful album. During this period Mike visited Haiti, where he investigated Voodoo rhythms.

Eventually, Mike's interest in science overwhelmed him and he entered the U.C. Berkeley Ph.D. program in Computer Science. He reasoned that both speech and music are signals that unfold in real time and are used by humans to communicate. As a musician, he had thought a lot about how to make his music relatable and relevant to the listener and was disturbed by techniques that might cause too much cognitive load for a listener. These ideas returned to him when, at SRI spinoff Nuance Communications, he was working on dialogue design. He noticed that because the designers of such systems knew the paths through the system, they could not easily anticipate the response of users who did not. He had Nuance change the usability testing to force his team to put themselves in the position of a system user. His user interface book¹ addresses this issue in detail.

I met him in 1988 when I joined SRI. He had obtained funding to work on neural networks in speech recognition while writing his PhD thesis. He was still passionate about playing and composing music, though, and spent one of his vacations visiting Indonesia to learn more about gamelan music. One of his compositions, inspired by the stress of preparing for a DARPA benchmark competition, was titled "Walking the Mechanical Dog."

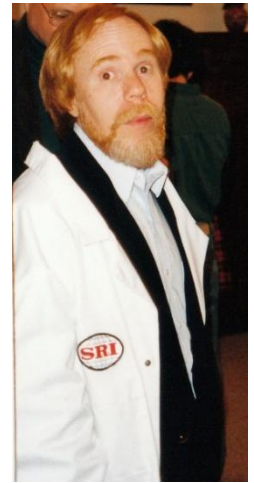
Mike left SRI's Speech Technology and Research (STAR) Lab with a few others to found Nuance. More importantly, to me as a lab director who was losing most of her senior staff, he agreed to work at both Nuance and SRI during a transition period of about a year. I'm sure that was a stressful period for Mike, as both groups could easily use all of his time, and I am grateful to his philosophy of refusing to turn down a gig as we tried to develop and hire more senior people for the lab.

In 2004, Mike left Nuance for Google to create and lead their speech technology effort. He led the team responsible for building Google's voice recognition and text-to-speech systems. His notable contributions include:

- **Goog-411:** Launched in 2007, this service allowed mobile users to search for local businesses and addresses via voice command.
- **Voice Search:** He spearheaded the rollout and expansion of Google's Voice Search capabilities, bringing natural-language processing to Android mobile devices and desktop browsers.
- **Language Expansion:** He grew Google's speech technology to process dozens of languages and dialects.

Around 2008, Mike was feeling pretty good about the progress of speech recognition. We used to joke that it was the technology of the future and always would be, but at that point, speech recognition was successfully transcribing unconstrained speech in 32 languages. Then, a few years later, as YouTube became increasingly popular, Mike decided to offer transcription of those videos. The acoustic conditions (often noisy and exhibiting a wide variety of less planned and less well recorded speech) proved even more challenging. Soon the results on even this challenging speech became quite good—so good that Marlee Matlin (actress and advocate for deaf rights) flew into town to take Mike and his team to dinner because she was so grateful.

In 2012, Mike left Google and started a collaboration with neuroscientists, teachers, and game designers to improve math education. That effort resulted in the founding of Cognition and the development of their virtual world environment, Fog Stone Isle. While Cognition began by tutoring math, it now also offers tutoring in English language arts. Mike claims he had nothing to do with the COVID pandemic, but that it did highly correlate with a



Mike wearing one half of a lab coat

1. books.google.com/books/about/Voice_User_Interface_Design.html?id=PI_n2EcfT0C

big surge in deployment for Cognition. The appeal of the company (with or without COVID issues) includes several advantages:

- **Research-Backed:** Studies (including research backed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) show that Cognition's collaborative learning model can lead to significant student growth and increase math confidence.
- **Certified Educators:** Tutors generally average over 10 years of classroom experience, and most hold advanced degrees or specialized certifications.
- **Conceptual Focus:** Rather than just rote memorization, sessions emphasize deep conceptual understanding and critical thinking.
- **Awards:** In 2024 Cognition won the "Cool Tool Award" at the [EdTech Digest Awards](#), largely for

its innovative collaborative learning approach. In 2024, Cognition won the prestigious [Codie Best Ed Tech Company to Watch award](#), as well as [several other awards](#).

Although many people have spent several decades or an entire career at SRI, some also develop, as Mike did, an entrepreneurial spirit. The world is a better place because of SRI and because of Mike!

Sources: <https://www.berkeley.edu/berkeley-today/spring-2016/unusual-career-moves>; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikecohen2/>; <https://www.sri.com/press/press-release/sri-international-spinoff-nuance-communications-acquired-by-microsoft-for-19-7-billion/>; <https://techcrunch.com/2011/06/14/google-launches-voice-search-on-desktop/>; <https://www.edsurge.com/writers/mike-cohen>; <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2017-09-18-there-s-no-such-thing-as-being-bad-at-math-how-neuroscience-is-changing-the-equation>; <https://www.cognition.com/>

Welcome, New Members!



Manoj Acharya

Ifeanyi Achu

Jack Armstrong

Adam Cobb

John Hines

David Israel

Sunny Kedia

Jeff Klaben

Roy Kornbluh

Dennis Lyftogt

Gene McDaniel

Thomas Morelli

Julia Olkin

Dennis Romley

Gary Segar

Talia Shaham

Greg Smith

Sandra Thompson

Dennis Tremain

John Yarborough

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

IN MEMORIAM

Myles Renver Berg



Myles Berg of Palo Alto, California, died on July 28, 2025, at the age of 92.

Myles was born September 6, 1932, in Riverside, California, to father Peder Berg (born in Norway) and mother Hilda (born in Michigan). He grew up in San Diego, then attended Stanford University, where he received his bachelor's degree in physics in 1955 and his master's degree in electrical engineering in 1956.

Over the course of his career, he worked at San Diego Gas & Electric, SRI International, Aerospace Corporation, MIT Lincoln Library, and Lockheed Missiles & Space. His contributions ranged from electromagnetic research and radar tracking to missile-defense systems and digital signal processing. One claim to fame is that he helped Lambert Dolphin get a job at SRI.

During the Cold War era, he led teams developing technology to counter threats, briefed government officials, and pushed the boundaries of electronic warfare. For helping to advance national security and aerospace technology, he was recognized with Lockheed's highest honor, the Robert E. Gross Award for Engineer/Scientist of the Year.

Myles is survived by his wife, Carol; four children; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Sources: <https://stanfordmag.org/contents/obituaries-spring-2026>; <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/records/258697653?tid=&pid=&queryId=a232dbd0-eb4a-4978-b3d2-d19941bedfe1&phsrc=kuj3499&phstart=successSource>; <https://www.ldolphin.org/rpl/>

Virginia Chandler



Virginia (Ginny) Chandler died on April 28, 2026, at the age of 84.

Born May 26, 1941, Ginny graduated with honors from Notre Dame De Namur University. She spent 30 years working as a medical researcher at SRI.

Ginny met her husband, Jose de Leon, on a ski slope on Mount Shasta in 1964, and they stayed married until her death. Besides being an expert skier, she studied yoga and eventually became a yoga instructor in her free time.

Ginny loved music. She was a talented pianist, played the ukelele, and had a beautiful singing voice. She also loved cooking, gardening, and animals—from dogs and cats to the lizards that scurried around her garden.

Ginny always tried to see the best in people and was more interested in hearing what others had to say than in expounding on her own work or accomplishments.

Ginny and her husband traveled extensively. Their trips took them from Alaska to the South Pacific, to Europe, to the Greek Islands, and to southwest American Indian reservations. The couple enjoyed experiencing ancient ruins left by civilizations of the distant past.

Ginny is survived by her husband, Jose.

Source: <https://www.mercurynews.com/obituaries/virginia-chandler-mountain-view-ca/>

Maryala Krishna



Maryala Krishna died on January 5, 2026. Born May 10, 1938, Maryala immigrated to the United States in the 1970s. He was the first in his family to earn a PhD (genetics) and was known for his perseverance and intellectual curiosity.

During the 1970s and 1980s, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, Maryala contributed to research in pronucleus and genetic mutations. His work focused on understanding the mechanisms of genetic damage and repair in reproductive cells, particularly in mice. He developed groundbreaking procedures for preparing first-cleavage metaphase chromosomes in mammals.

Maryala worked for a time in SRI's Biosciences Division, then moved on to Columbia University in New York City. Later, he served as medical director of the Cytogenetics Laboratory at Winthrop University Hospital and at New York University. He dedicated his life's work to advancing science and improving patient care.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Maryala cherished his 42 years in New York and the life he built with his wife, Sindu. His greatest joy was his family, and his love, guidance, and example will live on through them.

He is survived by his children, Nikhil and Sushma, and four grandchildren.

Sources: <https://www.sorcefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Dr-Maryala-Krishna?oblId=46847936>

Jill Lobato



Jill Lobato died at the age of 56 on May 14, 2026, at her home in Redwood City, California, after a 2-year battle with ovarian cancer.

Born in Southbridge, Massachusetts, to Gerard and Patricia Fournier, Jill was the youngest of six children. She lived most of her life in the Bay Area,

including the last 20+ years in Redwood City. She attended Menlo-Atherton High School, across the street from SRI headquarters, and worked as a project administrator at SRI in the Biosciences Division.

Jill enjoyed being outdoors and attending local events and festivals. She also loved sports and was a huge fan of San Francisco teams. She was known for her unwavering positivity and kindness. She will be dearly missed and her memory forever cherished by many.

She is survived by her husband, Keith; her children, Simone, Melanie, and Elena; her grandchild, Jay; and her siblings, Charles, Karen, Linda, Donna, and Brenda.

Sources: <https://www.crippenandflynnchapels.com/obituaries/jill-lobato>; <https://www.gofundme.com/fl-easing-jills-family-s-burden-in-her-final-days>

Richard Alfred Marciano



Richard Marciano, 92, of San Francisco, California, died on May 24, 2026. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on April 9, 1934, to Eugene and Venera Marciano.

Richard was proud of his Italian heritage and his extended Italian-American family. His father, born in Avelino, Italy, and his mother, born in Catania Sicily, Italy, both immigrated to the United States, where they met, married, and raised their two children.

After graduating from Classical High School in Providence, Richard studied at Brown University and later went on to graduate from Syracuse University. He also successfully completed the Business Executive Program at Stanford University.

Richard was a research executive at SRI International. He managed many large-scale education projects and later served as vice president for the commercialization of SRI's technology. Richard retired from SRI after working there for 25 years.

Richard had a full and fun life. He was a lover of all genres of music from jazz to opera. He had an adventurous spirit, exemplified by bungee jumping in New Zealand and sharing Ethiopian cuisine in an African refugee camp. A dedicated baseball lover, Richard wore his San Francisco Giants gear with pride at the three World Series games in San Francisco.

Richard is survived by his life partner, Teresa Middleton; his daughters, Gia Melissa and Cristina; his grandsons, Milo, Luke, Sam and Ecco; and his great-granddaughter Karina. He is also survived by his bonus family, Christopher and Andrew Middleton. Richard was predeceased by his sister, Imogene Marciano Abato.

Source: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sfgate/name/richard-marciano-obituary?id=61711179>

Peter Gabriel Neumann



Peter Neumann, pioneering computer scientist, died on May 17, 2026, at age 93 from complications of a traumatic fall.

Peter was born on September 21, 1932, in Manhattan, New York, to Israel Ber Neumann and Elsa Schmid

Neumann. Peter's father, a noted art dealer, moved from Germany to New York in 1923 and opened the New Art Circle gallery. Peter's mother was a mosaic artist whose colorful portrait of Albert Einstein was displayed for many years in the main library at Boston University.

Peter spent his early childhood in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, before his family moved to Rye, New York, where he attended high school. He enrolled at Harvard in 1950 and took a summer job that involved programming an IBM card-punched calculator for the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory. He dated his career as a computing professional to that year. By his senior year, he had become one of the first computer "hackers," which at the time referred to people who found computers fascinating.

Peter said that a single conversation in November 1952 shaped his intellectual life. As a Harvard sophomore, he had a 2-hour breakfast with Albert Einstein in which they discussed complexity in mathematics, physics, cosmology, and music. At one point in the conversation, Einstein said that "everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler," and Peter said that this philosophy was the seed of every research program of his career.

At Harvard, Peter was one of the first programmers to have solo access to his own "personal" computer when he took over the care of the Mark IV, one of the world's first stored-program computers, every Friday at 5 p.m. With another student, Fredrick P. Brooks Jr., who would become an IBM computer designer, he wrote a paper on using the Mark IV to compose music.

Peter received his PhD in mathematics from Harvard and a second doctorate from Technische Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany, on a Fulbright fellowship. In 1960 he joined Bell Labs, where he worked for a decade. He spent 5 years at Bell working on error-correcting codes and survivable communications before becoming, from 1965 to 1969, a key developer of the Multics (Multiplexed Information and Computing Service) operating system, an early Pentagon-financed project that was the first systematic attempt to tackle the problem of how to share computer resources securely among many users. The project pioneered concepts that became foundational to modern computing.

Peter joined SRI as a computer scientist in 1971 and worked there for more than 50 years as senior principal scientist and later chief scientist. At SRI he dedicated his

career to solving key problems related to computer security, reliability, privacy, safety, and the integrity of democratic computing systems. He brought intellectual rigor and a deep moral seriousness to hard questions, and he was a frequent critic of the lax attitudes of the industry toward computer security and individual digital privacy.

Early in his SRI career, Peter worked on a project for the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to solve a fault-tolerant computing/trustworthiness problem. This work fed into SRI's Software-Implemented Fault Tolerance (SIFT) project, which ran at NASA Langley for about 25 years.

In the mid-1980s, Peter and colleague Dorothy Denning designed and built the Intrusion Detection Expert System (IDES). Peter's work continued with Teresa Lunt's NIDES, and in the 1990s Peter was a key researcher on a DARPA-funded research project (EMERALD, led by Phil Porras) to develop new ways of detecting intruders in large computer networks.

In 2010, Peter began a research project that investigated how to guard against the most common types of security vulnerabilities. The DARPA-funded program known as CHERI (Capability Hardware Enhanced RISC Instructions) developed a new approach to computer hardware that restricts software programs so that malicious instructions cannot be executed.

Peter was a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He received many additional awards and honors throughout his long career. He served on several advisory bodies, including the board of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). SRI named him an SRI Fellow in 2001, and he was inducted into the National Cyber Security Hall of Fame in 2012. He received the Computer Research Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2013.

Until the time of his death, Peter was still working full time on a Pentagon-supported advanced computer security design that is being adopted by companies like Google and Microsoft.

Peter held a lifelong passion for music and played a variety of instruments, including the bassoon, French horn, trombone, and piano, in a number of musical groups. At computer conferences, he frequently led his colleagues in Gilbert and Sullivan songs.

Neumann's first marriage, to Anne Ferris Rittershofer, ended in divorce; he was predeceased by his second wife, Elizabeth S. Neumann, by his sons John and Chris, and by his stepson Timothy B. Luntzel. He is survived by his daughter, Helen Krutina ("Hellie") Neumann, and by his stepson, Mark Barnabas Luntzel.

For 70 years, Peter chronicled how computer systems fail and advocated tirelessly for the principles that make them fail less often. He will be remembered for his wit, warmth, and kindness and for being the conscience of the computing community.

Sources: <https://www.sri.com/press/story/peter-neumann-saw-the-internets-dangers-before-the-internet-existed/>; *The New York Times*; <https://cacm.acm.org/news/in-memoriam-peter-g-neumann-1932-2026/>

Fred Offensend

Fred "Fritz" Offensend died in Portland, Oregon, on October 17, 2025, from complications of advanced Parkinson's and a cerebellar stroke. Fritz attended the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, where he was active in Dartmouth Forensic Union/Debate and Dartmouth Society of Engineers. He earned his BE at Thayer and then an MS in industrial engineering and a PhD in engineering economic systems from Stanford. He then began a distinguished 30-year career—first at SRI International as a decision analysis consultant and later as vice president in financial engineering systems at Bank of America in San Francisco.

At SRI, Fritz worked on projects for the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) to test the utility of decision analysis in carrying out fire hazard analysis of upholstered furniture (conducted with the Center for Fire Research) and to evaluate alternative intervention strategies for reducing marine fire losses (conducted with the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and Maritime Administration). His papers were presented at the NBS Annual Conference on Fire Research in 1978.

Fritz is survived by his wife, Susanne; son, Ashley; and two grandchildren.

Source: <https://engineering.dartmouth.edu/news/obituaries-spring-2026/>; <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/Legacy/IR/nbsir78-1526.pdf>

Jerry Pierce



Jerry Pierce, 73, died on April 12, 2026, at his home in Redwood City, California, surrounded by his family.

A true Renaissance man of the modern era, Jerry was defined by his passion for the great outdoors, his technical expertise, and his keen eye for the beauty of the natural world. Jerry had three separate lives: as technologist, family man, and avid outdoor enthusiast focusing on photography, rowing, and hiking.

Jerry was born May 8, 1952, in Claremont, California. He spent his childhood in Claremont, then moved to Joshua Tree, California, with his parents during high school. He graduated from Yucca Valley High School and attended Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, where he met his wife and best friend, Barbara, during his freshman year.

After graduating from UC Berkeley and Stanford University, Jerry and Barbara eventually settled in Redwood City, where they raised their two daughters.

Jerry's career spanned over four decades of rapid technological evolution working on a range of technical issues at SRI, where he spent 12 years conducting research in laser disc, color printing, ink-jet printing, and nondestructive testing. Later, he joined Universal Studios, where he helped with the standardization and launch of DVD and Digital Cinema.

Jerry was an avid backpacker and world traveler who saw the world with his lens and a pair of hiking boots. His adventures took him across the globe accompanied by Barbara and other close friends. He was a true family man, spending time with his daughters and grandchildren in Boise and Long Beach. He was generous with his time and skills, volunteering with his wife and rowing club, and hosting numerous websites for local organizations and candidates.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Barbara; his daughters Andrea and Amanda; sisters Linda and Janet; and three grandchildren

Sources: <https://obituaries.rvcpulse.com/obituaries/memorials/jerry-pierce?o=9427>; <https://www.jerryperce.com/>; <https://creativetechorbit.substack.com/p/influential-entertainment-tech-leader>

Dennis Michael Silva



Dennis Silva, 82, died at home on February 8, 2026, after a short battle with metastatic pancreatic cancer, a few weeks shy of his 83rd birthday.

Born in Oakland, California, on February 27, 1943, Dennis was the only child of Antone and Catherine Silva. His extended family living nearby, and they saw one another often. The large family dinners held during religious occasions were especially cherished and lasted well into adulthood.

From an early age, Dennis developed a strong interest in science, sparked by a book he had checked out from the school library. From then on, he vowed that this would be his chosen field of study. After graduating from Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo, California, where he easily mastered higher math and physics, he earned a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, a master's from San Jose State University, and a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Washington in Seattle.

At UW, he met Susan Sachnowitz, who was majoring in Spanish. When they first exchanged smiles in the cafeteria that summer of 1969, it was love at first sight. They became engaged 10 days later and married after only 5 months on January 2, 1970.

After completing a postdoctoral assignment, Dennis and Susan moved to San Diego, California, in 1972, where he worked at Naval Ocean Systems Center (NOSC) for 14 years. During that time, daughter Adrienne Marie was born, followed by son David Jeffrey three years later.

Wanting to be close to his mother and extended family, the family moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1986. Dennis worked at Ford Aerospace for 3 years and later at SRI, until his retirement in 2016. At SRI, Dennis had the opportunity to make numerous contributions. He worked on target detection and signal processing projects, among other things; one of his published papers during his time at SRI discussed applying multispectral and hyperspectral imagery to remove ocean surface clutter using physics- and statistics-based algorithms.

For Dennis, learning was a passion. After taking full retirement, he wrote books on the history of the economy of the USA as well as the origin and expansion of the universe.

At parties, Dennis would join other amateur musicians by playing the guitar and singing cowboy and folk songs from the sixties. On long road trips, he always included his favorites, Willie Nelson and John Denver, on the playlist. He also loved hot, spicy food and spent much time in the kitchen preparing delicious meals for the family.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Susan, and his children, Adrienne and David.

Sources: <https://www.bergepappassmith.com/obits/dennis-michael-silva/>; <https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/Dennis-M-Silva-2011491238>

Cobbey Sova



Cobbey Sova died on December 8, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born on December 12, 1934, Cobbey was a resident of San Carlos, California. She retired from SRI in August 2007 after 22 years.

Cobbey was devoted to her dogs and was a member of the Chihuahua Club of Northern California and the Doberman Pinscher Club of Northern California. She was also an Angel Society member of Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City, CA, and a supporter of Samaritan House in San Mateo, California. She was in the armed services earlier in her life and held the position of chaplain of American Legion Post 105 in Redwood City, California, until 2024.

Sources: <https://neptunesociety.com/obituaries/belmont-ca/cobbey-sova-12662420>; <https://americanlegionpost105rvc.org/yearbook-2021-2022-1>; <https://srialumni.org/newsletters/2007/AlumNews-Dec-2007.pdf>

James White



James (Jim) White died on March 13, 2026, in Hawaii, at the age of 79.

Jim was born on February 14, 1947. He attended UC Santa Barbara and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Jim worked at the UCSB Computer Research Lab as a senior programmer after graduation, and when that university became node three of the ARPANET (precursor to today's Internet), Jim developed the ARPANET's first operational Network Control Program (NCP). He wrote some of the first network-based applications, including a remotely accessible file system. This was Jim's first experience designing and implementing distributed systems.

In 1972, Jim joined the Augmentation Research Center (ARC) at SRI as a research engineer to work with Doug Engelbart. During his 5 years at SRI, he invented and implemented the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) paradigm by splitting Engelbart's oNLine System (NLS) into network-linked front- and back-ends. Jim and a group of developers created formalized email messaging rules, which, among other things, established an early protocol for sending mail that would later become Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP). At SRI, Jim also gained valuable experience in messaging software while working on the SRI internal email system called The Journal, an early hypertext record storage that catalogued ARPANET publications.

Jim joined Xerox PARC's Office System Division in 1977, where he led a team of software developers who designed and implemented the network software for Xerox's 8000-series products, a family of workstations and servers connected by local area and wide area networks. He managed the development of XNS, the network architecture for the Star workstation and its Ethernet-based servers, and developed Courier, the RPC protocol for XNS. While at Xerox he conceived and co-designed ASN.1, the specification and encoding language of OSI, and ROS, its RPC protocol. During this time, he also earned his Master's degree in Computer Engineering from Stanford University.

In 1978, Jim attended the first meeting of what would become the International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 6.5 in Montreal. The group began discussions to develop an international email messaging protocol. Later they moved their efforts to the CCITT, where Jim was influential in providing the

technical architecture for X.400, the OSI email messaging standard first published in 1984.

After finishing work on X.400, Jim joined 3Com to work on their X.400 mail product, but development of the product was delayed several times, and in 1986 he left to join Telenet, where he continued work on networking standards begun at Xerox and 3Com. At the CCITT, part of the UN's International Telecommunication Union, Jim contributed to work on Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). For 8 years he chaired and contributed to large groups that developed internationally standardized network protocols for electronic mail (X.400), directory systems (X.500), and RPC (ASN.1 and ROS).

In 1988, with two friends as partners, Jim co-founded Rapport Communication, Inc., in Palo Alto, where he consulted to the electronic mail industry and its corporate users. He served as technical coordinator and editor of the newly formed X.400 API Association. He taught X.400, X.500, and ASN.1 seminars offered to the public internationally.

From 1991 to 1998, as a VP at General Magic in Sunnyvale, Jim invented and pioneered the use of mobile agents, for which he and two colleagues received a US patent. He co-designed the Telescript language in which mobile agents were programmed and conceived the first application of mobile agents, in which the agents served as "smart" electronic messages.

As a Fellow at SRI spinoff Nuance Communications, Jim developed the network architecture for a distributed voice web; specified the network protocols for its gateways and servers; and initiated the formation of an associated standardization activity within the World Wide Web Consortium.

Jim retired in 2012 to Kaneohe, Hawaii, and created his own company White Consulting. As an expert witness, he helped a large software company in Silicon Valley show the invalidity of the patents at issue in two patent infringement cases.

In Hawaii, he built a life far from the technologies he spent a career imagining into existence. He was surrounded by the beauty he and his wife, Yuki, had chosen.

Jim is survived by his wife, Yuki.

Sources: <https://spellboundproductions.substack.com/p/should-we-tell-them-about-telescript>;
<https://historyofcomputercommunications.info/interviews/James-White/>;
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alohajimwhite/> ;
<https://historyofcomputercommunications.info/interviews/James-White/>;
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alohajimwhite/>

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