

JULY 2014

HELLO WORLD



From the development of a telephone-based modem in the early 1980's, to Siri's automatic speech recognition, SRI International has had a long history of research into sound and speech. The ability to collaborate across divisions and scientific interests has sparked many shared projects from a winery to rock bands!

You never know what hidden talents are in the office next to you. For example, several SRI employees created The Outer Half, a local rock group. The talent in The Outer Half revolves around SRI. At the suggestion of a colleague, Dan Zalles (Education Department) called Jen Gill (IT Department), and the two collaborated to form the The Outer Half. Scott Graves, dulcet bass player, is connected to SRI — his wife also works in the Education Department. Dan and Scott write groovy original songs for the band! The drummer for the band, Doug Marks, is a realtor for Colliers and represents lease space for SRI property.

In addition to writing their own music, the band is known for great harmonies. Also, I understand they have a talent for enjoying bad jokes. Sometimes you don't have to go very far to find what you are looking for and this is certainly true for The Outer Half. They call their blend of covers and originals 'classic rock from many decades' and find that making music and performing can be a very addictive hobby. The band often performs at The Backyard Coffee Company, Menlo Park Relay for Life (Go Team SRI) and Off The Grid weekly markets at the Menlo Park train station.

When I made all-state concert band in high school, my father went to the local credit union and borrowed money to buy a brand new Gemeinhardt silver flute. It was an extravagance. That flute followed me to the Army Band. I remember playing with the Tokyo Symphony on the bicentennial — 4th of July 1976 — performing Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever. I still have that flute today. Music has made a huge difference in my life and in many people's lives.

If you have some hidden talents, or want to make a difference in your children's life, don't let the lack of drums, a tuba or piano hold you back. The credit union is having a great promotion on FUN GEAR loans throughout the summer!

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