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**We want to hear from you.
Please direct letters to:**

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Send email to
stokes@cmu.edu
Please include your name and
if applicable, major and date
of graduation. Letters will be
edited for clarity and space.



SILICON VALLEY – OUR ALUM WAS THERE FROM THE BEGINNING

It was with a real sense of pleasure that I read the article on Carnegie Mellon's presence in Silicon Valley. I was one of the first, if not the first, alumni to be employed by a major electronics firm in the Silicon Valley. The year was 1965 and I was hired as a product engineer for Fairchild Semiconductor. Back then, there were only three major semiconductor corporations in the United States, and Fairchild was the only one in California. This was a few years before the Bay Area turned into Silicon Valley. Matter of fact, Del Monte Foods was the biggest employer in the area followed by Lockheed directly across the Bayshore Freeway.

All the engineers hired in this first wave of hiring were young and talented. Very few of my colleagues ever heard of Carnegie Tech, back then. This was the era of fantastic innovation. The challenges we faced may seem antiquated compared with today's challenges.

They included getting the percentage of acceptable units on a wafer beyond single digits, implementing wafers beyond 3/4 of an inch in diameter, and getting optical resolution below 10 mils. The biggest challenge was multiple devices on a single chip. We were the group that perfected the technology for manufacturing integrated circuits.

This was also the era of where entrepreneurial engineers went off to start their own companies. Those were the years that Fairchild executives left to form Intel and AMD. From that start, other engineers left those companies and formed a proliferation of other companies that grew into Silicon Valley and the electronic hub of the nation.

ROBERT B. GELMAN E'62
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



DENNIS DIMIDUK



DAVID VANDELINDE

RECOGNIZING CIT ALUMNI

The Carnegie Mellon Alumni Association presented Alumni Achievement Awards to **Dennis Dimiduk** and **David VandeLinde** at a ceremony on October 24, 2008. They were honored for their exceptional accomplishment and leadership, thereby bringing honor to themselves and to Carnegie Mellon.

Dennis Dimiduk (E'84, '89)—His leadership of Air Force research in advanced metallics and simulation methods has had a major impact on both his technical field and the nation's security.

David VandeLinde (E'64, '65, '68)—As the vice chancellor of two major British universities and dean of the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, VandeLinde's leadership and creativity have made a positive impact on education.

