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if applicable, major and date
of graduation. Letters will be
edited for clarity and space.

EAST COAST CONTRIBUTIONS TO IC INDUSTRY

Robert Gelman's letter to Forum (Spring Issue 2009) reminds us of the development of the integrated circuit industry on the West Coast. We would be remiss, however, not to note the very significant contributions to the evolution of that industry that originated on the East Coast.

Before there was a "Silicon Valley" research was underway on the replacement of vacuum tubes in electronic equipment at Carnegie Institute of Technology using nonlinear magnetic and dielectric materials to provide all-solid state amplification. At MIT there was a study underway to simulate electronic circuit functions by appropriate tailoring of solid state structures.

Very significant papers and patents came out of work on integrated circuit technology at RCA, Bell, GE, Sylvania and Westinghouse laboratories all located on the East Coast at the time. Carnegie Mellon alumni

were prominent in many of those programs. In addition, the driving force for significant integrated circuit technology was investment by the Army, Navy and Air Force labs such as those at Ft. Monmouth, Wright Field and in the environs of Washington, D.C.

Obviously we cannot in any way diminish the ultimate supremacy of the technical and business development in integrated circuits that took hold in Arizona, Texas and California, but we should also remember the many contributions of the universities and industrial and government laboratories domiciled on the East Coast of the country.

EDGAR A. SACK, E '47, '51, '54
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
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