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SAN JOSÉ SIA 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

While a great many people were watching the latest Indiana Jones movie, over 110 real archeologists and friends came to San José to attend the 37th Annual Meeting of the SIA, May 29-June 1, with nary a single whip or fedora in sight.

As we searched for something that tied together the rich diversity of Bay Area industry over the years, the one common thread was change, hence the conference theme, "Change Is the Constant." Many of the event venues and tour destinations echoed this theme. Indeed, even the term Silicon Valley is now somewhat a misnomer, as the last major semiconductor fabrication facility (a "fab"), Intel Fab D2, was closed shortly before the conference. This theme of deindustrialization was picked up by Saturday's papers track, *Ciao Industria*, organized by Michigan Tech IA graduate

student Cameron Hartnell, who attended SIA 2008 with help from one of our travel grants. Four different papers about deindustrialization were presented, reflecting trends in and beyond the Silicon Valley.

A driving factor for change in Silicon Valley has been the semiconductor industry's ability to continue to meet Moore's Law. In 1965 Gordon Moore, a Fairchild Semiconductor and Intel co-founder, observed that the number of transistors that could be economically produced on an integrated circuit seemed to be doubling every two years. Through almost incomprehensible amounts of effort, the industry has been able to maintain this exponential curve for over 40 years. The Friday Roots of High Tech tour ended at the **Intel Museum** which traced the company's 40-year history and featured a thread on Moore's Law. Although completely different technology, the other

(continued on page 2)



Jay McCamley

In This Issue:

- Pittsburgh, SIA Annual Conference '09
- Iron Industry Technical Communications
- Christopher Andreae—
General Tools Award Recipient
- Patrick M. Malone—
Vogel Prize Winner
- Greater Gifts = Greater Grants
- Morrison's Timber Truss
- Richard Sanders Allen Remembered

The rotary smelter at the New Almaden mercury mines was installed in the 1940s and operated until 1975. The mercury vapor was condensed in the zigzag pipes. The sulfur dioxide gas was vented to the air.