

# THE BROOKINGS REGISTER



1:30 pm  
Currently:  
64

RealFeel® High: 72  
Humidity: 51  
Winds: NE at 8 mph

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## Making science simple, fun

Posted: Thursday, Jun 28th, 2007

By: John Kubal

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be at SVI through the summer.

The August 2006 issue of PC Magazine puts stretchable silicon as No. 1 on a list of "The 10 Coolest Technologies You've Never Heard Of."

At UI, Ragusa works on stretchable silicon technology with professor John Rogers. While silicon wafers used in cell phones and other electronic devices, the wafers can't bend, flex or stretch and are "more brittle than glass."

In ways difficult for a layman to envision, stretchable silicon could lead to a cell phone that resembles a writing pen, but once unrolled becomes a totally different means of communication.

Digital wallpaper

Ragusa wants people to envision "digital wallpaper" that can change colors or function as a television; a digital book with changing pages and animation; or "perhaps a surgeon's gloves that have sensors imbedded right in the gloves that give real-time feedback in the middle of the surgery."

He added, "There are tons of applications; anywhere that electronics couldn't have been before because of their rigid nature, you can start to put them into prosthetics and other applications."

Ragusa said the exhibit he brought to SVI "is something that we're trying to make into a traveling display and get the word out about nanotechnology and inform people about how nanotechnology is going to change people's lives. And young people will be able to be part of that when they get to higher-level education; and they should think about science."

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "nanotechnology" as "The science of building electronic circuits and devices from single atoms and molecules."

In addition to the stretchable silicon exhibit, SVI has several programs remaining for the summer:

"For the Birds"; "Hands-on Geometry with Triangles and Rectangles"; "Bee and Butterfly Watching"; "Getting to Know Dinosaurs"; "Hanging out with Bats"; "Owl Prowl"; "The Chemistry Series"; "Powering Rockets"; "Slip Sliming Away"; and "Identifying Unknown Chemicals."

For additional information about the offerings of SVI, call Lewis at (605) 692-8355; or reach her by e-mail at [svi.contact@gmail.com](mailto:svi.contact@gmail.com). SVI is located at 124-126 West Second St. S. in Brookings, near the airport.



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Contact John Kubal at [jkubal@brookingsregister.com](mailto:jkubal@brookingsregister.com).