Making science simple, fun

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By: John Kubal

be at SVI through the summer.

The August 2006 issue of PC Magazine puts stretchable silicon at 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 animations; 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 Sliding 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. SVI is located at 124-126 West Second St. S. in Brookings, near the airport.

Contact John Kubal at jkubal@brookingsregister.com.