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BUSINESS



Scott McNealy is still with Sun, but much of his energy is spent on Curriki.

Bay Area Council honors Hall of Famers

A thousand business, civic and political leaders were set to swank it up Tuesday night at the Bay Area Council's annual banquet at San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel. This year, as it has since 1995, the public-policy group honored three leaders who have not only done well in business but have done good deeds in the community by inducting them into the Bay Area Business Hall of Fame.

This year's Hall of Famers are Sun Microsystems Chairman Scott McNealy, biotech pioneer Edward Penhoet and San Francisco's human rescue ranger, Delancey Street co-founder Mimi Silbert.

The feisty and outspoken McNealy co-founded Sun in 1984 and ran the firm until 2006, when he was kicked upstairs to chairman. That has allowed McNealy to "put all the wood behind one arrow" — to use his own management phrase — in this case his new passion, a nonprofit Web site for K-12 teachers and students called Curriki (curriki.org).

Penhoet, a former UC Berkeley professor, co-founded Chiron Corp., one of the early biotech firms, which is now part of the Swiss pharmaceutical firm Novartis. At year's end, Penhoet will retire from his post as director of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, through

TECH CHRONICLES

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(sfgate.com/blogs/tech)

which he has dispensed \$220 million a year for conservation, science and environmental causes.

Silbert, who started her life's work by co-founding a drug rehabilitation center in 1971, was honored for building Delancey Street into an institution that has helped some 14,000 former felons graduate to gainful employment.

Attendees were to hear from former California Govs. Gray Davis and Pete Wilson in a discussion moderated — if that word can be used in connection with that real cat in the hat — by former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown.

And since it would border on the criminal to assemble such a well-heeled crowd without asking for money, the event was a fundraiser that organizers expected to bring in more than \$500,000, said Bay Area Council spokesman John Grubb.

— Tom Abate

Google opens office South of Market

Google's new San Francisco of-

fice, located close to the South of Market waterfront, has better views than cube-land at the company's Mountain View headquarters.

Now employees who live in the city won't have to take one of the company's free Wi-Fi-equipped commuter buses down Highway 101 during rush hour.

Google has quietly planted its flag in San Francisco, joining several other technology companies in the city's financial and South of Market neighborhoods. In Google's case, the company is moving into some former offices of Gap, at 345 Spear St., where it is occupying several floors and about 200,000 square feet in what is known as Hills Plaza.

Yes, there is free food is served, just like at the Googleplex, although there is less variety. Poor Googlers.

Some members of Google's public relations team have already moved in. No word on other departments, though there is room for about 800 employees.

— Verne Kopytoff

