

## 2015 Recipient:

**Jay T. Last, Ph.D.**

Class of 1947

Dr. Jay Last was one of eight young scientists (known as the “Traitorous Eight”) that formed Fairchild Semiconductor on September 18, 1957 in Palo Alto, CA. Together they created the first integrated circuit chip (first computer chip). Last was its principal architect and together they became the leaders of the silicon semiconductor industry that ultimately changed Santa Clara Valley into what is now Silicon Valley. Last went on to become one of the initial investors in Intel Corporation and was a venture capitalist in numerous other startup businesses. In 1999, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring Last and the other inventors. In 2006, the New York Times ran an article “Ten Days that Changed History” which quoted “September 18, 1957 was the birth date of Silicon Valley, of the electronics industry and the entire digital age.” In 2014, Endeavor magazine listed the value of \$2.1 trillion dollars to all those companies that trace their roots back to Fair Child Semiconductor (including Apple, Google and EBay.) A graduate of the University of Rochester with a bachelor of science degree in Optics, he went on to study at MIT and received his Ph.D. in Physics in 1956. Last founded the Archeological Conservancy in 1989, which has preserved and protected over 150 archeological sites in 28 states. He compiled a rare collection of lithographic art now on display in the Huntington Museum’s Jay Last Collection. He has authored several books and is founder of Hillcrest Press Publishing.