

## **WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY (August 2012)**

Deborah Peacock recently attended the World Future Society Annual Conference in Toronto. She wanted to share some of the technologies they talked about as possibilities for the future:

- 3D printing (making solid objects from your computer) is going beyond rapid prototyping, plastics, ceramics and metals. Home units are becoming available for less than \$1000 for plastics, wax, foam, balsa wood. In the near future, there will be 3D printing of organs (e.g. for transplants), pharmaceuticals, and food (e.g. Star Trek style). We are pleased to represent Optomec who is being featured in this month's *Economist* for its 3D manufacturing of an aircraft wing ([www.economist.com/node/21559593](http://www.economist.com/node/21559593)).
- Augmented reality (overlying or augmenting images with real images), will become part of everyday life. Google just introduced its new goggles which can display maps, messages, etc. ("Project Glass").
- Driverless cars. Aquaculture in most cities to meet demand for fish. Bioreactors for food production. Vertical food production (e.g. grocery stores grow the food on their roofs).
- Neuroeconomics and neuromarketing. We're getting close to being able to read people's minds. Check out the work that Stanford University, and NeuroVigil are doing with Stephen Hawking using the iBrain, to turn his brain waves into speech.
- Outer space. Colonizing and terraforming other planets and mining asteroids. Space elevators for transport to space stations.
- Using your own heart beat to power iPads and phones. Energy generated by walking and driving using nanotechnologies.
- Plants send you a text or alert that they need watering. Pill bottles send you a message to take your pills. Sensors on teeth to detect disease.
- Entrepreneurial Incubators in the ocean to avoid country regulations and immigration laws (check out Blueseed's "Googleplex of the Sea").
- Check into a hospital and go into a virtual reality state (e.g. whitewater rafting, horseback riding, on the beach, etc.) instead of being in pain.

The next World Future Society annual conference is in Chicago, July 26-28, 2013. If you are interested in joining the World Future Society, the price is only \$79 per year. They have terrific publications about future technologies, education and society. See [www.wfs.org](http://www.wfs.org).