



## **Santa Clara's John J. Montgomery (1858 – 1911) Pioneer in Aeronautics, Astronomy, Electricity, Wireless**

**Presented by: John G. Burdick '65**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012  
4 – 5:30 p.m.  
St. Clare Room  
Learning Commons**

Santa Clara's own John Montgomery was a true pioneer. He burst into public recognition with his first paper on aviation detailing his experiments on the lifting power of the curved wing. The report of his flights in 1883-85 stunned the world and newspapers dubbed him a "Genius Unawares." In this presentation, John Burdick tells about Montgomery's connection to Chanute, the Wright Brothers, the Loughheed brothers, Marconi, and others.

Come and learn about an SCU alumnus and professor who was a true pioneer in science and ushered in a century of engineering excellence at Santa Clara University.

### **About the presenter:**

John G. Burdick grew up in Santa Cruz, California, and earned a B.A. in Political Science from SCU in 1965. Burdick served in the US Army Intelligence Corps and did one tour of duty in Vietnam. He later worked in his family's retail business and went on to a career as a high school teacher. He now lives in blissful retirement in Pacific Grove, California. Burdick has authored books on computer programming and recently wrote a memoir of his time in military service while in Vietnam entitled "A Sphinx." He is currently at work with his cousin and fellow SCU graduate, Bernard J. Burdick, Ph.D., on a biography of the early aviator and scientist from Santa Clara University, Professor John J. Montgomery.