

STARTUP



Photo by Lance Murphey



Brad SILVER

with **Computable Genomix**

by Richard Alley

Brad Silver's company, Computable Genomix, began as a way to help scientists and researchers quickly make sense of huge amounts of complicated data. Their answer was the company's launch product, GeneIndexer, a tool developed in 2008 that uses artificial intelligence to compress months of reading into only minutes and, in essence, accelerate the discovery process.

"In January 2009, I joined the team as CEO because I saw an opportunity to work with terrific people to deliver an amazing product to the burgeoning life science market," says Silver, 41. Silver says he's convinced that now is the time to be in the life science sector. Computable Genomix's customers are on the leading edge of a field with immense growth potential. "In 2009, when many sectors had significant sale decreases, numerous life science businesses had year-over-year revenues which were flat or up."

Silver became an entrepreneur after time at Thomas & Betts, where "with performance comes some measure of stability," he says. But Silver has found he is thriving in the start-up world where the challenge is "finding the strength from self and colleagues to push through the valleys, knowing that the view will be spectacular from the next peak," he says.

Within the turbulent atmosphere of the start-up, Silver leans on his wife, Nancy Coffee, president and CEO of The Leadership Academy, and son, Paxton, 3. His wife is "the most dynamic leader I know," he says.

He sees himself and his team of "incredibly talented and motivated people" as perhaps creating some of the history he enjoys reading about. He thrives on an independence of thought and the tenacity of the entrepreneurial spirit, prevalent in any successful business.

"Somebody told me Abe Plough [Schering Plough founder] once said, 'To build a good business, you have to be in a good business,'" Silver says. "We're in a great business."

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