Long Live LASERS!
A Stanford-centric look at 50 years of innovation.

In 1960, a young Stanford graduate named Theodore Maiman invented the world's first laser. The realization of a concept introduced four years earlier by Arthur Schawlow and Charles Townes, Maiman’s laser, made from a ruby crystal, produced a deep red beam. Some might even call it Cardinal. University faculty, students and alumni have made significant contributions to the field over the years—advancing the fundamental science (and earning three Nobel Prizes—booyah!), as well as developing applications in industries as diverse as medicine, electronics, telecommunications, entertainment and the military. Hail, Stanford, hail.

BY GISELA LYNCH

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