THE WANG FAMILY EXCELLENCE AWARD

2006
STANLEY WANG is founder, president and CEO of Pantronix Corporation of Fremont, California. The company, incorporated in 1974, provides semiconductor manufacturing services for the medical, aerospace, communications, automotive and computer markets. Pantronix has two divisions: Components and Electronics Manufacturing.


Born in China, Mr. Wang holds a bachelor’s degree in business/management from the National Taiwan University (1967) and an MBA from Temple University in Philadelphia (1970).

Appointed by the governor of California, Mr. Wang served as a highly regarded active member of the CSU Board of Trustees from 1994 until March 2002. He has also served on the board of directors of the Asian American Manufacturers Association. In addition, he is an adviser for the Chinese American Semiconductor Professional Association and the Chinese Institute of Engineers; was a founder of the Monte Jade Science and Technology Association; and is also a member of the prestigious Committee of 100, which includes such members as Yo Yo Ma and I.M. Pei.
Dr. Eugene D. Novotney, an internationally known percussionist, joined the Humboldt State University Department of Music in 1985 and was appointed to a tenure track faculty position in 1990. He is the founder of the Humboldt Calypso Band, which has become a model for steel bands statewide and nationally, and he also organized the Marimba Band and the Samba Band at Humboldt State. Every semester, Dr. Novotney teaches two large section classes of Music in World Culture, with 140 students in each class.

In addition to teaching at the Humboldt campus, Dr. Novotney is founder and statewide coordinator of the “Percussion in World Music” program of the California State University Summer Arts Program and has routinely taught in the program since 1988. A number of his students in Summer Arts have progressed to become touring artists with well-known musicians such as Carlos Santana and the Grateful Dead.

Dr. Novotney has studied and performed various musical genres including classical percussion, electronic music, Anlo-Ewe drumming, Brazilian percussion and Afro-Cuban percussion in Europe, Brazil, West Africa and the Caribbean. He has recorded more than 15 CDs and videos, and his compositions and arrangements have been performed internationally. In addition, he toured as a musician with the musical *A Chorus Line*.

Dr. Novotney has performed in Trinidad’s National Panorama Competition and has served as a representative and adjudicator for Pan Trinbago, the national governing body for the advancement of folkloric music in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Most notably, he was one of three jurors who adjudicated the second annual World Steelband Music Festival in New York in 2005. He also served as one of four scholars to adjudicate Trinidad’s World Steel Band Festivals in 1998 and 2000, and represented North America on the adjudication panel of the 2000 European Steelband Festival held in Paris.

Dr. Novotney started his musical training at age five by studying jazz drum set. During his teenage years, he built upon his classical music training by branching out into the steel band music of the Caribbean. He earned advanced academic degrees in music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor’s degree at the University of Cincinnati.
Dr. Alan L. Smith, a gifted faculty member and scholar in geological sciences with a specialty in volcanology, joined the faculty at California State University, San Bernardino in 2000 as chair and professor of the department of geological sciences.

Dr. Smith has a powerful track record in the field of volcanology and is recognized by his peers as the foremost authority on Caribbean volcanoes. His interest in Caribbean volcanoes is not purely scientific, but also humanitarian: He has worked hard over the years to ensure that the local island populations are informed of the risks they face living near potentially active volcanoes.

During his academic career, Dr. Smith has successfully received more than $6 million in research grants from entities such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of Defense. He has been the co-principal investigator on an NSF grant titled, “Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences,” and received an NSF grant for “Research Experience for Undergraduates.”

Dr. Smith spearheaded an effort to require undergraduate geological sciences majors to complete an undergraduate research course. This enhances their learning experience by allowing them to participate in all aspects of research: proposal preparation, data collection, data synthesis, arriving at logical conclusions and presenting results to their peers. Students are encouraged and supported whenever possible to present their research at local, national and international meetings, thus adding another dimension to their education.

“He challenges students to excel,” a student comments. “He pushes them to find their ability without overwhelming them.”

In addition to CSU San Bernardino, Dr. Smith has served as a faculty member at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, and, earlier, as a lecturer at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and California State University, Chico.

Dr. Smith earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of London and a doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley.
Dr. Paul K. Longmore, a professor of history and director of the Institute on Disabilities, joined the faculty at San Francisco State University in 1992.

Dr. Longmore is an outstanding teacher and scholar of Colonial History who has garnered critical acclaim for his writings about George Washington. His department chair calls him “a true super nova” whose remarkable contributions have resonated throughout and far beyond the campus. Further, his students consistently note their appreciation of his teaching skills and enthusiasm for the subject matter. “Your class was among the most inspirational experiences I have had in my college career,” one student remarks. “Thank you for the amazing class.”

As an undergraduate and graduate student, Dr. Longmore thought of history as his academic focus and his disability activism an entirely separate part of his life. After completing his doctorate, he realized he could merge his training as a historian with the study of disability history. Dr. Longmore created and continues to teach a course in the history of disability minorities in America—the first course of its kind in higher education. “He is a pioneering force in the emerging field of disability studies,” a colleague comments.

Dr. Longmore is sought out nationally as a commentator on disability issues. His articles and interviews have appeared in the New York Times and Los Angeles Times, and on National Public Radio. In 2005, he received the prestigious Henry B. Betts Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) for his scholastic contributions. The president of AAPD states, “Paul’s clear message is helping to deepen America’s understanding of the disability experience and inspiring a new generation of disability leaders.”

The director of San Francisco State’s disability program and resource center adds, “[Paul Longmore] has given the disability community the intellectual power it needs to push for justice on such wide-ranging issues as work disincentives, in-home personal assistance and media images.”

Dr. Longmore received his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School.
PROF. DOREEN NELSON is a professor in the College of Education and Integrative Studies and an adjunct professor in the College of Environmental Design at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. A nationally recognized innovator in the field of education reform, Nelson is the creator and developer of Design Based Learning (DBL), which teaches all students to use higher-level thinking skills by starting with their creative instincts. This approach was founded on the belief that the capacity for originality and invention—often regarded as the special province of artists, inventors and great thinkers—is inherent in each individual. Nelson drew from the ideas of educational theorist John Dewey and the physical skills of architecture to create this unique approach.

Nelson began her career at Cal Poly Pomona as director of the Institute for Environmental Design. She transferred to the College of Education and Integrative Studies in 1994 to develop and implement the nation’s first site-based M.A. degree in Design Based Learning, Applying Technology. Commenting on DBL, a schoolteacher reports, “Once you teach this way, the students won’t let you go back.”

Nelson has focused on changing the methods practiced by teachers in public schools. She is the author and developer of City Building Education, a method promoting the built environment as a vehicle for teaching that has been in use at all grade levels in public schools, museums and universities since 1969. In 1991, the New York Times named Nelson one of the 30 most innovative educators in the United States, and, in 1996, the American Institute of Architects awarded her lifetime Honorary Membership.

Professor Nelson’s work has been funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the California Community Foundation, the Atlantic Richfield Foundation and participating school districts. She has been a consultant to Alan Kay of Apple Computer’s Advanced Technology Group; her consulting has benefited numerous organizations including Disney Imagineering; and she helped design Maxis’ SimCity, SimEarth and SimLife software. Nelson has also taught at the University of Southern California; Stanford University; the University of California, Los Angeles; Harvard University; and the Royal College of Art in London.
Dr. Kenneth Coale is director of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and professor of chemistry at San José State University. MLML houses teaching and research facilities of the marine science graduate program, serving a consortium of seven campuses of the California State University. It has the largest fleet of research vessels on the Central California coast.

Dr. Coale was appointed MLML acting director in 1998 at a time when the laboratories were experiencing significant fiscal and administrative problems and the reconstruction of earthquake-destroyed facilities had been stalled for nine years. He skillfully brought the $25 million construction project to completion while satisfying complex legal, governmental, environmental, regulatory and Native American concerns unique to coastal California.

Under his leadership, improvements in building and maintenance practices earned MLML recognition by the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program with a “Gold” rating for existing buildings in 2004.

Dr. Coale has improved the fiscal stability of MLML, re-established the collegial environment, and heightened faculty and staff morale. In fact, MLML has generated over one-third of the contract and grant activity of San José State University. Dr. Coale has been the lead principal investigator on 65 projects that collectively have been awarded more than $33.1 million in external funding since 1999.

In addition to his many contributions as director, Dr. Coale maintains a solid, world-recognized research program in chemical oceanography. In 2002, he led a multinational, multi-institutional expedition to the Southern Ocean. The program was successful in linking the availability of iron to phytoplankton to climate change in two key regions of the Southern Ocean. This research authored by Dr. Coale appeared in the April 2004 issue of the prestigious journal Science.

President Don Kassing remarks, “Dr. Kenneth Coale is truly an exceptional administrator and an internationally recognized scientist who combines the highest standards of visionary leadership, quality management, outstanding scholarship and service to the CSU and the community.”