THE WANG FAMILY EXCELLENCE AWARD

2007
STANLEY WANG is founder, president and CEO of Pantronix Corporation of Fremont, California. The company, founded in 1974, provides Semiconductor Manufacturing Services for the aerospace, medical (including life support), military, communications, automotive and computer markets.


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. Craig H. Russell has served as professor of music at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo since 1982. A composer, music historian and master of the guitar and lute, Dr. Russell shares his passion and enthusiasm for music with students in classes of all levels, including a general education music appreciation course with a class size of more than 120. Whether he is teaching Mozart operas, the music of the sixties or the history of the guitar, Dr. Russell is extraordinarily well-versed in the subject matter, earning high praise from his students.

Dr. Russell is also a gifted scholar, pursuing the music history of California and Mexico during the 17th and 18th centuries. Of particular interest in his intellectual and artistic journey is his discovery of early California Mission music traditions.

Widely praised as a composer, Dr. Russell has had his compositions performed in Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Sydney Opera House as well as in concert venues in Canada, England, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Poland and Spain. He also has worked closely with the well-known vocal group Chanticleer, including the production of the group’s Grammy Award-nominated and No. 1-selling CD *Mexican Baroque*, reconstructing the recordings’ music from musical fragments found in Mexican and California archives.

Dr. Russell has been a central figure in the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival each summer, directing the cultural Mozart Akademie, coordinating lectures and producing the Mozart Akademie for children. In addition, he finds time to disseminate musical programming to local schools.

Dr. Russell earned his bachelor’s and master’s music degrees from the University of New Mexico and a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
DR. MARIA C. LINDER, an internationally recognized scientist, is professor of biochemistry at California State University, Fullerton. She has been a member of the CSU Fullerton faculty since 1977 and has been the chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry since 2004. Dr. Linder’s scholarship and research seek to understand at the molecular level the absorption, distribution and metabolism of trace elements in the human body. Her book, *Biochemistry of Copper* (1991), is considered the finest work in the field.

Since joining CSU Fullerton, Dr. Linder has received grants totaling nearly $5 million. She has repeatedly won competitive research grants from the National Institutes of Health, which typically are given to investigators at major research universities. By obtaining funding through the Minority Access to Research Careers, she is able to have students work side by side at the laboratory bench.

Dr. Linder has published 20 peer-reviewed journal papers in the last 10 years, all of which were co-authored with students. In recognition of her demonstrated superb contributions, she received the highly prestigious national American Chemical Society Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution.

An outstanding teacher, Dr. Linder has created a following of students whom she has taught, coached and mentored into graduate schools and careers in medicine, science and teaching. In fact, a former undergradu-ate student at CSU Fullerton and now instructor in pathology at Harvard Medical Schools says, “She introduced me to the world of science and scientific curiosity, and I have never looked back. Maria Linder is probably the best scientist and teacher that I have come across.”

Dr. Linder completed a B.A. in chemistry at Vassar College and a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Harvard University.
Dr. Stephen F. Cunha, a professor of geography, joined the faculty at Humboldt State University in 1996. For more than a decade, he has shared his experiences as a worldwide traveler and former park ranger to instill in students an understanding of a living geography. Dr. Cunha punctuates his lectures with real-life stories and regional artifacts, from Buddhist robes to blowguns, enhancing the learning experience. His unique teaching style has made him a very popular instructor, as noted by his cultural geography class offering blossoming from an enrollment of 40 to 340 students annually.

Enthusiastic about geography and sharing his extensive knowledge, Dr. Cunha leads student field trips in locations throughout North America and other continents. As a former seasonal park ranger for 10 years in Yosemite National Park and Alaska, Dr. Cunha also consistently places his students with the U.S. National Park Service as temporary summer seasonal rangers.

A steadfast champion of geography literacy, Dr. Cunha promotes geographic education throughout California as director of the California Geographic Alliance and was an advocate for the successful passage of AB 1548, which creates a strong environmental education into the K-12 curriculum. His work with the California Geographic Alliance reaches 11,000 high school teachers. He also organizes an annual geography bee for 100,000 fourth graders in California.

Dr. Cunha consistently receives significant grants from the National Geographic Society and the Packard Foundation. As an active conservationist, he has also worked to create and preserve parklands worldwide.

Prior to joining Humboldt State in 1996, Dr. Cunha spent 10 years as a faculty member at Consumes River College in Sacramento. He earned his B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis.
Dr. Timothy M. Stearns is a professor of management at California State University, Fresno. He also holds the Coleman Foundation Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies and is director of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Craig School of Business at Fresno State.

Through classes and programs such as the hands-on Venture Lab, Dr. Stearns instills in students the confidence to believe in their ideas and pursue them in business and career. He extends his mentorship even further by placing students in internships with innovative entrepreneurs. Thanks to Dr. Stearns’ leadership of the entrepreneurial degree option and certificate, Fresno State’s program is ranked eighth in *Entrepreneur* magazine’s survey of the 500 colleges and universities across the United States.

Believing that encouragement of innovation and entrepreneurism can begin at an early age, Dr. Stearns and the former executive director of the National Inventors Museum in Ohio created the Kids Invent Toys summer invention campus for children 10 to 15 years old. Now, more than 40 museums across the United States license the program.

On a daily basis, Dr. Stearns encourages innovative and entrepreneurial thinking on campus and in the local Central California community. He helped launch the Central Valley Business Incubator, which guides fledgling businesses to become successful economic entities. He also is a frequently invited featured speaker at business conferences, a columnist for the *Fresno Business Journal* and co-host of a business news and roundtable discussion hour on Fresno State’s public radio station.

Dr. Stearns joined Fresno State in 1994, following teaching posts at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He holds a B.S. in sociology from San José State University and an M.B.A. and a D.B.A. from Indiana University.
Mr. Thomas P. Brown, Jr. is executive director for physical plant management at California State University, Northridge. Under Brown’s leadership, the staff of Physical Plant Management (PPM) keeps classrooms and offices ready for daily use by the faculty, students and staff. PPM is responsible for keeping the facilities of CSU Northridge running smoothly; maintaining beautifully landscaped grounds; remodeling, repairing and painting rooms; providing upkeep of parking lots, parking structures and campus roads; and keeping the overall campus infrastructure operating at top performance.

In addition to overseeing physical plant management at CSU Northridge, Brown also serves in the role of an educator. He routinely employs students in PPM, providing them with unique learning opportunities that integrate their academic pursuits with PPM projects. The students “engineer” complex solutions and experience first-hand the latest technology.

One such project helped CSU Northridge in the attainment of its energy conservation and sustainability goals while also allowing students to learn by doing. Brown appointed an engineering student as project leader and employed a cadre of engineering students to design and install a photoelectric energy collector system in several parking lots at CSU Northridge. Brown also spearheaded a similar effort with substantial student involvement in the incorporation of a hydrogen fuel cell power plant into campus operations at CSU Northridge. This 1-megawatt plant is the largest single fuel cell at any university in the world.

By keeping an eye on reduction of energy costs, rebate and cost-sharing opportunities, and innovation, Brown exemplifies the best attributes of an administrator in the California State University.

A licensed engineer, Brown holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from CSU Northridge.
The Wang Family Excellence Award was established in 1998 by Stanley T. Wang and family. The purpose of the award is to recognize and celebrate those faculty who, through extraordinary commitment and dedication, have distinguished themselves by exemplary contributions and achievements in their academic disciplines. Mr. Wang's pledge of a $1 million gift to the California State University is being awarded in the amount of $100,000 each year for 10 years. Each year, four faculty members and one administrator are honored, and each honoree receives $20,000.

“We are absolutely thrilled to recognize our very best faculty members and administrators through the generous gift provided by Stanley Wang and his family.”

Roberta Achtenberg, Chair, CSU Board of Trustees

“The Wang award recognizes the achievements of the CSU’s most distinguished and highly achieving faculty and administrators—those who are making extraordinary efforts to serve students and the community.”

Chancellor Charles B. Reed

Dedicated in memory of 2005 Wang Excellence Awardee Richard Wiseman of California State University, Fullerton.