

# Distinguished Alumni

## Distinguished Alumnus Award - 1998

### Peter F. King '80

"Smart," "reliable," "unselfish," "innovative." These descriptors were used repeatedly by Cate School teachers to express their perception of you as a student. Your extraordinary achievements in academics, drama, and a myriad of extra-curricular activities were secondary only to your strong character. So impressed was Headmaster Scott McLeod that he named you the recipient of the 1980 Headmaster's Award.

In the eighteen years since you left the Mesa, you have distinguished yourself as one of Silicon Valley's true pioneers. You began at Stanford University where, as a student, you were a system programmer and administrator. You expanded your professional expertise with Steve Jobs' NeXT Computer. There you worked with Jobs on the creation of what many regard as "the outstanding" workstation and software environment, some of which still exists in Apple's new Rhapsody operating system.

You then went to a subsidiary of Sun Microsystems, now Javasoft, to serve as managing software architect for Sun's language-based operating system project. You worked closely with James Gosling, the inventor of Java—an object-oriented, secure, architecture-neutral, portable, general-purpose programming language that has proven to be essential to Internet users around the globe.

You continued your career at Silicon Graphics, Incorporated, where you created an application development environment for digital interactive television hardware boxes. Today, at Unwired Planet, you are responsible for the overall architecture for UP's software products. You participate in international standardization efforts such as the Wire Application Protocol Forum and World Wide Web Consortium. You have numerous patents pending in the area of wireless data communications.

You have remained ever true to those strong characteristics that were honed during your Cate experience and have faithfully remembered the School. Three years ago, you attended the first meeting of the Cate School Alumni Council's Technology Committee in Burlingame, a committee you have chaired from its inception and whose members you recruited and continue to lead. As a result of your involvement with this group, CateNet was born.

Your contributions to CateNet have added new and unique dimensions to the meaning of "*Servons*." You brought technical expertise and creativity to the design, installation, and implementation of CateNet. With Cate's director of technology you designed CateNet's infrastructure, established the campus-wide Internet connection, programmed the router hardware, interfaced the Unix servers supporting e-mail and access to the World Wide Web, created the security firewall, and wrote Cate's "Acceptable Use Guidelines". These are accommodations that all of us—students, faculty, alumni, and parents alike, on or off the

Mesa—now take for granted. Your help in this area came at a critical time when technology started to bring members of the Cate family together in new and significant ways.

In recognition of your professional accomplishments, and especially in recognition of the application of your professional expertise to benefit every constituency in the Cate community, the Cate School Alumni Association honors you, Peter F. King '80, as Distinguished Alumnus for 1998.