



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Yao Xi '82g



To Yao Xi for achieving international prominence in teaching and research in electroceramics.

Yao Xi started his graduate studies in the Peoples Republic of China in the late 1950s. But the Cultural Revolution delayed his work for nearly two decades. Yao resumed work on his Ph.D. at Penn State in 1979, as part of the first group of Chinese scientists to come to the United States. His thesis advisor, Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering L. Eric Cross, says Yao's 1982 Ph.D. was the first earned by a Chinese national following the Cultural Revolution. For his doctoral work in solid-state science, Yao received the 1982 Xerox Award from Penn State for the best dissertation in materials science and the Ross Coffin Purdy Award from the American Ceramic Society.

Today, Yao is one of the foremost experts in electric ceramics. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2007, one of the highest honors for scientists and one awarded to few international scientists. Yao also is a member of the American Materials Research Society and a senior member

of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, which granted him its Ferroelectric Recognition Award in 2002. He also became a fellow of the American Ceramic Society in 2002. Yao is one of the founding members of several professional associations including the World Ceramic Academy, Asian Electroceramic Association, and the Asian Ferroelectric Association.

After receiving his doctoral degree and completing postdoctoral work, both at Penn State, Yao returned to China in 1983 and joined the faculty of Xi'an Jiaotong University in 1984 as a full professor, nominated directly by the Higher Education Ministry of China as a special promotion. A year later, he was named department head, and from 1993 to 1996, he served as dean of the School of Electronics and Informatics Engineering. In 1997, Yao was appointed professor and director of the Functional Materials Research Laboratory at Tongji University in Shanghai while maintaining his position at Xi'an Jiaotong University.

Yao's research interests include materials and devices for electronic and optoelectronic applications including electronic

ceramics, ferroelectrics, piezoelectrics and pyroelectrics, sensors and actuators, thin films and thick films, and functional nano composites. He holds two patents in the United States, four in Singapore, and 15 in China. Yao is the author or co-author of seven books and has published more than 600 articles in respected journals. He's frequently invited to give presentations and talks at domestic and international conferences. Yao is the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics permanent representative for China on the international ferroelectrics planning group and was chair designate for the 12th International Meeting on Ferroelectricity held in Xi'an, China, in 2009.

Yao has also been instrumental in establishing the International Center for Dielectric Research (ICDR) on the campus of Xi'an Jiaotong University. He was appointed executive director of the ICDR board. Yao will also serve as editor-in-chief of the new *Journal of Advanced Dielectrics* to begin publishing in 2011.

In addition to conducting research, Yao is recognized as a prominent educator in China, where he has played a major role in training the next generation of scien-

tists. He pioneered the electroceramic education program in China in 1960. In 1984, the State Council's Academic Degree Commission recognized him as the first Ph.D. supervisor of the electronic materials and devices program in China. Since then, he has supervised more than 75 doctoral students and 90 master's degree students in the electroceramics and devices field. Many of his students are now working in China as well as in the United States, Canada, and Japan as university professors and senior industrial managers.

Yao was elected a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1991, the highest honor awarded by the State Council of China. He is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the Chinese Ceramic Society (CCS), a fellow of the Chinese Institute of Electronics (CIE), and a member of the National Standing Committee of the Chinese Materials Research Society (NAMCC), and others.

Yao is a 1957 graduate of Jiaotong University in Shanghai. He and his wife, Zhang Liang-Ying, have two grown children and live in Shanghai and Beijing, China.