



2003 DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS

This award was established to recognize alumni who have demonstrated outstanding adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi (integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity) and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture in our society. Its second purpose is to provide examples of excellence both in leadership and in character to members of collegiate chapters.

Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs

dR. IRWIN M. JACOBS, chairman and CEO of QUALCOMM Incorporated, has demonstrated outstanding adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture through his technical excellence, exemplary leadership, and philanthropic generosity.

Educated at Cornell University and MIT, Dr. Jacobs taught at the institute during 1959-66 as an assistant/associate professor of electrical engineering. He co-authored a basic text on digital communications, *Principles of Communication Engineering*, first published in 1965 and still in use today. During 1966-72, he served as a professor of computer science and engineering at the University of California, San Diego.

In 1985 Dr. Jacobs co-founded QUALCOMM Incorporated, a major player in the fastest-growing, digital technology for third-generation wireless communication services. It is his pioneering work and patents on code-division multiple-access technology and its commercialization under his leadership that has enabled his philanthropic support today. His several inventions contributed to his firm's portfolio of more than 400 U.S. patents, 900 U.S. patents pending, and many company licensees. The technology is licensed for the manufacture of wireless devices and network infrastructure equipment, integrated circuits, and test equipment.

Cited for his achievements, inventions, leadership, entrepreneurship, and world citizenship, Dr. Jacobs has



Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs, NY '56

received the National Medal of Technology, the IEEE Alexander Graham Bell medal, the AEA medal of achievement, the ARCS scientist of the year award for 2000, and the Franklin Institute Bower award in business leadership for 2001. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is an IEEE fellow and a member of Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, and Eta Kappa Nu.

Dr. and Mrs. Jacobs have contributed to both local academic and community endeavors, providing extensive endowment support to the school of engineering at UCSD; a recent announcement of a \$110 million gift to the Jacobs School of Engineering is the largest gift in the university's history. A \$6 million gift went to SDSU's entrepreneurial management center, the center for

research and mathematics and science education, and the college of education. The couple has made pledges totaling \$150 million to community groups, including the San Diego Symphony and Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla Playhouse, and the Shiley Eye Center at UCSD. They founded the Jacobs Family Cottage, a home for troubled children in San Diego.

Dr. Jacobs serves on the boards of numerous organizations, including the UCSD Foundation, and he is a past chair of the University of California president's engineering advisory council. In 1997, he was elected to the Council on Competitiveness, a group comprised of CEOs from business, labor unions, and universities that helps to set a national action agenda for U.S. leadership in global markets.