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KATHLEEN JAY » EDUCATION

S.F. State fetes 50 years of cutting-edge ideas

Design and Industry Department noted most for inventing waterbed

Last November, the Department of Design and Industry at San Francisco State University celebrated its 50th anniversary with a symposium and a banquet at the university's main campus with more than 150 faculty, alumni, students and friends.

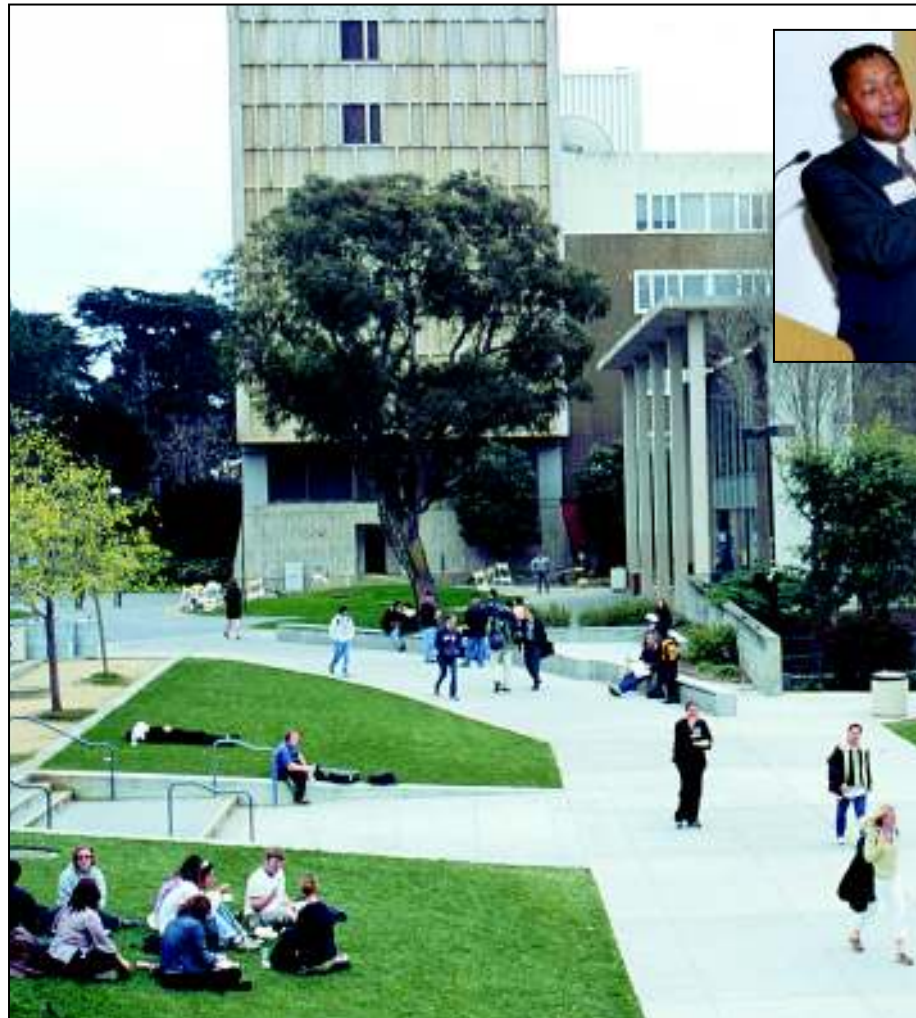
The department, which has produced many innovations over the past 50 years, is most noted for developing the world's first waterbed, which Charles Hall created in 1969 by experimenting with starch- and gelatin-filled prototypes.

More recently, the department's faculty members and students have won several Industrial Design Excellence Awards, including a 2006 bronze medal for Professor Martin Linder's design for a CT-80 explosive detection system, which is used to scan baggage at airport security checkpoints.

The department kicked off the celebration with a professional symposium on "Emerging Design and the Future Society," which was held the night of Nov. 9, 2006 at the Jack Adams Hall of the Cesar Chavez Student Center, located on the university's main campus on Holloway Avenue in the Sunset district.

Addressing the role of the designer in the 21st century, the symposium featured a discussion on the impact of design, technology and information applications on social and cultural identities in the emerging global society.

Featuring a panel of industry professionals, guests included: Amhi Mehta, emerging markets experience architect at Hewlett-Packard; Joanne Oliver, sustainability initiative leader at IDEO; Eric Bailey, senior interactive designer at frog design; Liz Ogbu, designer and project manager at Public Architecture; Ben Chia, design manager at DesignAffairs and a lecturer of design and industry at SFSU; and Ricardo Gomes, associate professor and chair of the Department of Design and Industry.



Professor Ricardo Gomes honors SFSU College of Creative Arts Acting Dean Wan-Lee Cheng, top. A student discussed his product design during a symposium celebrating the Department of Design and Industry's 50th anniversary.

— Courtesy of SFSU

On the following day, the department hosted a banquet honoring SFSU College of Creative Arts Acting Dean Wan-Lee Cheng, a longtime design and industry professor.

The event was held at the Seven Hills Conference Center on the university's main campus.

Dean Cheng, who had served as chair of

the Department of Design and Industry for 15 years, is leaving the university to become president of Chung Yuan Christian University in Taiwan, where he earned his bachelor's of engineering degree in 1969.

Also during the banquet, the department initiated new student members to Epsilon Pi Tau, an academic honor society. Robin

LaFever, a design engineer at the Lawrence Berkeley Labs, provided the keynote address at the celebration.

To learn more about the program, which offers bachelor's degrees in industrial arts, product design and industrial technology and a master's degree in industrial arts, visit design.sfsu.edu.