



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Pierre Catala Honored By Former Students

Pierre Catala is a distinguished professor, and longtime NARTE member and advocate. He is a retired Master Engineer, E1-03057, with Master endorsements in RF and NON-RF. A professor at Texas A & M university since the 80's, he has assisted many students in becoming NARTE certified.

Former students and friends of Texas A&M University's telecommunications engineering technology program have established a \$25,000 endowment to honor senior lecturer emeritus Pierre Catala, a teacher-mentor-friend whose service to the university spanned 17 years.

The first recipient of the Pierre J. Catala Scholarship in Telecommunications Engineering Technology will be named for fall 2004.

"Pierre Catala impacted countless individuals through his teaching, mentoring, and advising, and I know that the lives he touched are better as a result. This scholarship fund is just a small way for former students old and new to recognize his devotion to teaching and the excellence of his graduates," said lead contributor Dave Irek, Texas A&M Class of 1994, an optical sales specialist with Cisco Systems Inc. in Richardson, Texas, and chair of the university's Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering Technology Industry Advisory Board.

Pierre formally retired in May 2002 but continues to teach two courses on a part-time basis.

"Pierre's dedication and leadership in the development of our telecommunications engineering technology program have been exemplary," said Dr. Richard M. Alexander, engineering technology

and industrial distribution department head. "He is a master teacher whose commitment to quality has served as an inspiration to students and faculty colleagues alike."

Pierre is a staff officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and recently received its Sustained Service Award for "superior performance of duty."

He came to Texas A&M in 1985 and helped build the department's fledgling telecommunications program. His research interests have included telecommunications systems, microwave and satellite networks.

Through the years he served on key university and departmental committees and was widely recognized by the university community and industry for his contributions to a diversified, caring campus environment. He was faculty advisor to student chapters of the Caribbean Student Association, the National Society of Black Engineers and IEEE-COMSOC, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Communications Society.

Pierre earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of New Hampshire. He started his career as a microwave transmission engineer with General Telephone Company and then spent a decade in Haiti and Jamaica with the International Telecommunications Union, a United Nations agency, including four years as project manager. He also served as a telecommunications consultant for the Caribbean Region of the UN Disaster Relief Office.

"**Well Done**" from NARTE, to both Pierre Catala, NCE, for devotion to his students throughout his teaching career, and to those students who are recognizing him in such a professional way, by furthering his dedication to excellence through helping future generations of deserving students.

NARTE "Heptoad" Awards

THE NARTE "HEPTOAD AWARD" is granted by NARTE Headquarters staff to properly recognize those who lighten their burden or who otherwise represent NARTE in an outstanding manner. Congratulations to the following Spring 2004 Heptoad recipients!

John Mireley—Mr. Mireley, a customer of NARTE FCC examination, was awarded the Heptode for providing NARTE a crucial puzzle piece to fix our web site. Your helpful feedback enabled NARTE to troubleshoot and fix a problem with our new e-commerce system.

Rose Baumstark—Ms. Baumstark of St. Louis, MO was awarded the Heptode for her helpfulness to a NARTE member. She found one of our Members membership cards on the ground in front of a mall in St. Louis and mailed it back to NARTE. The card is now safely returned to the certified member.

Lawrence V. Behr— "For Assistance to NARTE at the WCAI Symposium." Thank you for your assistance to NARTE in arranging a meeting with the president of WCAI to discuss possible

partnering activities with NARTE. Likewise, your help in staffing the NARTE booth, thereby relieving the lone booth occupant for breaks and lunch is much appreciated."

Michael W. Britner—"For Assistance to NARTE at the WCAI Symposium." Thank you for your thoughtful assistance to the NARTE staff. You lightened our burden very literally – carrying a heavy box of conference supplies three blocks, from the hotel to the conference booth—thank you.

Kimball Williams—"For Assistance to NARTE at the EMC Standards Workshop." Thank you for your assistance in receiving, carting and delivering a large box of conference materials to the IEEE EMC Society/SAE Automotive EMC Standards Workshop. You willingly accepted this burden in addition to your other considerable responsibilities as Chair of the meeting. NARTE would not have been able to stock our display booth without your assistance."