

# Columbia instructor named California Professor of Year

By ABBY SOUZA

Warren Ted Hamilton, who teaches history and political science at Columbia College, has been named California's Professor of the Year.

He was chosen for the honor by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Hamilton and other professors from around the country will today be recognized at a luncheon at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel in Washington, D.C., followed by an evening reception on Capitol Hill.

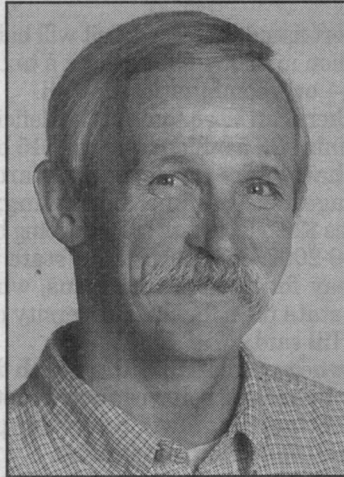
"Ted Hamilton brings a passion and rock solid commitment to the classroom, as well as tireless work beyond the classroom that is absolutely remarkable and astounding," said Jim Riggs, president of Columbia College.

The U.S. Professors of the Year Program was created in 1981 and is the only national award program specifically designed to recognize undergraduate teachers. This year's winners were selected from nearly 300 nominees from across the country. Four national winners and 46 state winners were named.

College administrators nominated top instructors for the honor. Professors' teaching logs, course descriptions and a personal statement describing their teaching techniques were required for the judging.

"Hamilton's entire career has been a textbook on achieving greater goals," said Columbia College spokesman Doug Lau.

Hamilton earned an associate arts degree from Modesto Junior



"TED" HAMILTON

College in 1968, then transferred to University of California, Berkeley.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in 1970, Hamilton accepted a teaching job in Japan, helping Japanese businessmen, graduate students and English instructors with basics of the English language, American economics, slang, customs and American history.

About a year later, Hamilton came back to California to earn a master's degree in history at California State University, Stanislaus.

In 1973, faculty members at UC Berkeley recommended him for a position as historian and director of site archeology to the Imperial Iranian Court.

Hamilton returned from Iran in 1975 and worked toward another master's degree, this one in geography, from Stanislaus State.

From 1976 until 1998, he taught economics, geography, history and political science at Modesto Junior College.

He joined the Columbia College faculty in the spring of

1998 and has taught geography, history, philosophy and political science. He is married to fellow Columbia College professor Paula Clarke.

During his time at Columbia College, Hamilton has served as a management consultant to the Yosemite Community College District for comprehensive planning; president and governor for the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges; president of the Yosemite Faculty Association; chief negotiator for the Yosemite Faculty Association; president of the Columbia College Academic Senate and peer review board evaluator for the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Science and Technology.

Hamilton is also a past recipient of the Faculty of the Year award at Columbia College, and Tuolumne County's Teaching Excellence Award.

Carol Baker, a former student of Hamilton's, submitted a letter in support of his nomination as Professor of the Year.

Baker enrolled at Columbia College in 1995. She was 46 at the time and had serious doubts she would ever do well in college.

"Over time, I worked my way through the required courses, avoiding those that I dreaded, namely political science and history," she said.

After enrolling in Hamilton's political science class, Baker said she read through the syllabus and essay questions that she would be required to respond to over the semester and became terrified.

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*'I was being challenged to stretch beyond my limited notion of who I was.'*

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— CAROL BAKER,  
former student

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"In Ted's office, I tearfully declared that I was incapable of doing the work," Baker said. "I was too old, and I didn't know how."

But Baker said Hamilton cheerfully told her that he thought she was capable, and promised a total commitment to her success if she was willing to work.

"I was being challenged to stretch beyond my limited notion of who I was," Baker said. "That first day in Ted's office was the beginning. ..."

Baker has since graduated from Columbia College and UC Berkeley, where she had a 4.0 grade point average and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

"In my academic disciplines, you are usually not aware of the difference that you make in a student's life," Hamilton said. "The time delay may take several decades until you discover that you had an impact on someone's life."