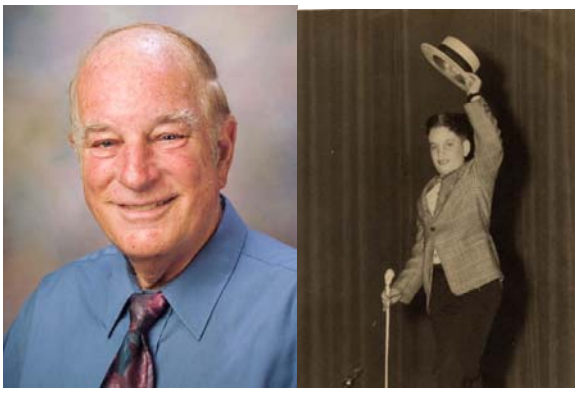
CSULA Emeriti Association Faculty Biography



Name: Martin S. Roden

Department: Electrical and Computer Engineering

Academic rank: Professor

Year appointed: 1968 **Year retired**: 2005 **FERP years: 0**

City of residence: Arcadia, CA

Email and web page: mroden@calstatela.edu
http://www.calstatela.edu/faculty/mroden/mroden.htm

Birth Place: New York City, NY

Birth Year: 1942 **Marital status**: Domestic Partner
Spouse or partner: Dennis Ross

Colleges or Universities Attended:
I began my higher education at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, the second oldest private engineering institute in the country (founded in 1854) and now affiliated with NYU. I was honored to have graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1963. I quickly got the MSEE degree a year later at Polytechnic, and would probably have a PhD from there had I not moved to California prior to starting on the dissertation.

Once in California, I enrolled at UCLA and easily completed the coursework for the PhD (I've never had any trouble with courses and exams). But then my motivation dried up and my PhD studies came to a halt. In the meantime, I achieved tenure and promotion at Cal State LA under the then alternate Engineering criteria (34 units of post-MS coursework plus 5 years of significant industry). I was the last faculty member to achieve tenure without having a PhD – the last of a dying breed.

Years later, after growing tired of correcting students and others who addressed me as "doctor", I researched non-traditional schools and found Kensington University – a place that seemed to be doing all the right things to become a leader in alternate education approaches (perhaps even achieve the prestige of University of Phoenix – cough cough). My dissertation was done under the advisorship of a Princeton PhD, and it became the basis of a new textbook I wrote, so I was granted the PhD in 1982. But alas, Kensington was making so much profit without going through

the next steps toward recognition and legitimacy that the administration became complacent and the university ended up eventually closing its doors.

Teaching Experience:

Institution	**From**	**To**
Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (Part Time Teaching)	1966	1968
California State University, Los Angeles	1968	2005
Integrated Computer Systems (Learning Tree) – Senior Instructor	1975	1985

Courses taught:

- Numerous (over 25) Electrical Engineering classes at BS and MS level.
- Undergraduate class in ethics and professionalism.
- Introduction to Higher Education course (Introduction to Engineering).
- Writing for Electrical Engineers.

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

- Junior Engineer at IBM, Poughkeepsie NY during summer 1962.
- Member of Technical Staff at Bell Telephone Labs, 1963-1968
- Consultant to Hughes Aircraft Ground Systems Division, 1974-1986
- Consultant to various other companies such as Motorola, Southern California Edison, and KOR Electronics.

Awards, Honors, Professional Recognition:

- Cal State L.A. Outstanding Professor Award (1981)
- AT&T Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching (1990)
- Institute for the Advancement of Engineering Outstanding Educator Award (1992)
- Engineers' Council Distinguished Engineering Educator of the Year award (1997)
- Selected by Cal State L.A. as its candidate for the Statewide Trustees Outstanding Professor Award (1995)
- Recipient of an IEEE Millennium Medal (2000)
- Recipient of the Cal State LA President's Distinguished Professor Award for 2002-2003
- Listed in countless who's who books including Outstanding Young Men of America (very early edition), Who's Who in Engineering, Who's Who in California, Who's Who in the West, International Who's Who in Technology, Community Leaders of America, American Men and Women of Science, etc.
- When I received an invitation to join the Royal Order of Intellectuals, I decided enough was enough. My perspective on these types of awards changed when I got a County Commendation in recognition of my service as Chairman of the Board of United Way in the same week that the county issued a proclamation declaring "Freddy Krueger Day." I'm proud of my membership in Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Golden Key Honor Society, and also being recognized as a Fellow of the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering.

Citations of Selected Publications, Presentations and/or Creative Activities:

- I've authored (or co-authored) 19 textbooks with Pergamon Press, Prentice Hall, Benjamin Cummings (Addison Wesley) and Discovery Press.
- Dean emeritus Ray Landis and I started Discovery Press after we were each dissatisfied with the major publishers. In my case, Prentice Hall had just raised the price of my 540

page Communications text to about $140. This outraged me and I began a national campaign against major Engineering publishers. I also began a campaign to get released from Prentice Hall and after several years and 3 changes of editor, they gave me the copyright. The book was republished by Discovery Press with a retail price of $54.95. This was so much fun that I started working on Addison Wesley to get the copyright for my 1040 pages Electronic Design text (written with two co-authors). Once again, after several years they decided they were tired of my phone calls and letters and Discovery Press started publishing that Electronics text and two later editions.

- Of my 19 texts, 18 are heavy technical books with tons of formulae and diagrams. The 19th book is a departure. After being heavily involved in improving student communication skills (I was founding chair of the university Writing Skills committee), I co-authored a relatively short book (240 pages) covering writing and presentation skills for technical professionals. My co-author is a retired VP from IBM. This was a fun project, and since the book doesn't have formulae and complex diagrams, it's also available on Kindle.

University Service:

- The list of university, college and department committees is much too long so I will not bore you. Although I love teaching, I've been in and out of administration during my 37 years on campus. I was department chair for 12 years, Associate Dean twice for a total of 6 years, Acting Dean a few times, and Acting Associate Vice President.
- I have also experienced the "other side" having been elected to two terms as president of the Cal State LA Chapter of CFA. I've been faculty adviser of numerous student organizations, and also founded and edited a student technical journal that started out as the "Diablo Engineer" and then reluctantly changed to the "Cal State LA Engineer".
- As I write this, I am completing my second term as President of the Cal State L.A. Emeriti Association.

Personal commentary, including non-academic interests and accomplishments:
I have truly enjoyed my 37 years of full time employment at Cal State L.A. I have always governed my life by three principles:

1. Make a difference.
2. Have fun in the process.
3. Help others have fun.

What metric can one use to see if #1 is achieved? Well, if you Google "Martin S. Roden", you will get about 1.2 million hits, and amazingly, many of these are actually referring to me (e.g., a faculty member posts a syllabus for a course that is using one of my textbooks). Of course, many are NOT me. For example, one entry says, "Martin S. Roden is an out and out hooker with a reputation of having an excellent work rate." Indeed, this is another Martin Roden who holds the position of hooker in a Rugby team in Chorley, England.

As far as principle #2, while I have not enjoyed every minute (e.g., some meetings are pretty painful), I've really had fun, and any time I was not, I changed the situation to achieve this goal.

I'll leave others to judge my success at #3.

My partner and I do a lot of traveling, and I am currently in my second term as President of the Arcadia Travelers, a senior travel club with over 650 members.

Date completed: April 2011