

# John E. Warnock

*Utah '61*

Oxford Cup Roll No. 075

March 24, 2012 | Salt Lake City, Utah

Dr. John E. Warnock, *Utah '61*, was initiated into the Gamma Beta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi on May 17, 1959, as Roll No. 1,019. Graduating in 1961 with a B.S. in mathematics and philosophy, Warnock continued his educational path at the University of Utah, earning his M.S. in mathematics and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

In 1982, Dr. Warnock co-founded Adobe Systems, Inc., with Dr. Charles Geschke, building the company from a small start-up to one of the world's largest and most recognized software companies. Warnock has worked closely with Geschke for more than two decades, pioneering the development of graphics, publishing, and Web and electronic document technologies that have revolutionized the field of publishing and visual communication.

Serving as president of Adobe during his first two years, Warnock served as CEO for the next 16 years. Retiring as CEO in 2000, and CTO in 2001, Warnock currently serves as co-chairman of the board, along with Geschke, where he continues to shape the direction of the nearly \$3 billion company.

Prior to co-founding Adobe Systems, Warnock was principal scientist at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (Xerox PARC). Warnock also held positions at Evans & Sutherland Computer Corporation, Computer Sciences Corporation, IBM, and the University of Utah.

Warnock's entrepreneurial success has been chronicled by some of the country's most influential business and computer industry publications, and he has received numerous awards for technical and managerial achievement. A partial list of his awards includes:

- University of Utah Distinguished Alumnus Award (1995)
- Software Systems Award (1989, Association for Computing Machinery)
- Edwin H. Land Medal (2000, Optical Society of America)
- Bodley Medal (2003, Bodleian Library at Oxford University)
- Lovelace Medal (2004, British Computer Society)
- Medal of Achievement (2006, AeA)
- Computer Entrepreneur Award (2008, IEEE Computer Society)
- United States National Medal of Technology and Innovation (2009)

Warnock is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Philosophical Society. He has received honorary degrees from the University of Utah, the American Film Institute, and Nottingham University. Along with serving on Adobe's board of directors, Warnock is also a member on the boards for Mongonnet Inc., and Salon Media Group, and serves on the board of trustees of the Sundance Institute.

A strong supporter of higher education, Warnock and his wife, Marva, donated 200,000 shares of Adobe Systems in 2003, valued at more than \$5.7 million, to the University of Utah as the main gift for a new engineering building. They have also supported three presidential endowed chairs in computer science, mathematics and fine arts at the University of Utah, and endowed a chair in medical research at Stanford University.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 6, 1940, Warnock currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. He and his wife have three children. The Beta Spirit runs deep in Warnock's family, with many of his relatives having also been initiated into the Gamma Beta Chapter at Utah, including his son, Christopher M. Warnock, *Utah '91*, and his brother, Thomas V. Warnock, *Utah '57*.