

**POMS 2013 Martin K. Starr Excellence in  
Production and Operations Management Practice Award  
Thomas A. Debrowski  
(Executive Vice President, Worldwide Operations, Mattel, Inc.)**



The *Martin K. Starr Excellence in Production and Operations Management Practice Award* has been instituted by the Production and Operations Management Society (POMS) to recognize contributions made to the field of Production and Operations Management (POM) by POM practitioners. This award is based on exceptional quality of contributions to the POM field and is presented to an individual who has done an exceptional job in making advances in the practice of POM, promoting the profession, making an impact, and building a linkage between industry and academics. These contributions are not restricted to a single organization and may span time spent at several organizations during the career of the candidate. The cumulative contributions made by the candidate during his/her career are evaluated. It is an international award and is open to all POM practitioners from around the world. It is POMS' most prestigious award to recognize a practitioner and industry leader. The POMS' Board in its annual meeting held on April 28, 2006 in Boston, U.S.A. unanimously approved that the award be named after Dr. Martin K. Starr. The POMS' Board in its deliberations noted that Dr. Starr has contributed to POMS and its activities since its inception and has been a constant source of guidance and inspiration to POMS. Naming this award after him is indeed a great recognition of his services to the POM profession in general and the POM Society in particular.

The first seven recipients of the award are: Dr. Gang Yu (2012), Mr. Edwin Keh (2011), Dr. Krishan Kumar (2010), Ms. Erin J. Wallace (2009), Dr. Dina Petrarolo (2008), Dr. Corey A. Billington (2007) and Mr. Lee Cockerell (2006). All seven recipients are the most esteemed members of the POM field. Dr. Yu is the co-founder and Chairman of NewHeight Corporation and The Store Corporation ([www.yihaodian.com](http://www.yihaodian.com)). He is also an Adjunct Professor at Beijing University, Tsinghua University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Wuhan University, and Shanghai Jiaotong University. Mr. Edwin Keh served as Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Wal-Mart Global Procurement. Dr. Krishan Kumar is the Director of Maruti Automotive Center of Excellence, Maruti Suzuki India Limited - the largest automobile manufacturer in South Asia. Ms. Erin J. Wallace serves as Senior Vice President of Operations Integration Line of Business for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts®. Dr. Dina Petrarolo is the Managing Director at Shatterprufe, South Africa's Automotive Glass Manufacturer; and prior to his current position, Dr. Petrarolo served as the Global Head of Manufacturing Development, SABMiller pic, Sandton, South Africa. Dr. Corey Billington is a Professor of Operation Management and Procurement at IMD in Lausanne, Switzerland; and prior to his current position he

worked as Senior Vice President for Hewlett Packard (HP). Mr. Lee Cockerell is a consultant, author, and speaker, now retired as the Executive Vice President of Operations for the Walt Disney World® Company.

The committee for the 2013 award unanimously selected, from among a slate of excellent candidates, Mr. Thomas Debrowski to be the recipient of this year's award. Thomas A. Debrowski is executive vice president of Worldwide Operations for Mattel, Inc., where he is responsible for ensuring the efficiency and quality of all worldwide manufacturing, logistics and supply chain activities for Mattel. He oversees the operations and distribution departments, which include global sourcing, procurement, manufacturing operations, operations finance and strategy, operations technology, logistics, operational planning, environmental affairs, health and human safety.

Debrowski joined Mattel after more than nine years as senior vice president of Operations for The Pillsbury Company. In this role, he was responsible for integral processes ranging from purchasing and manufacturing to product quality and environmental affairs.

Before joining Pillsbury, Debrowski was a 20-year veteran of Kraft Foods, Inc., the largest U.S.-based packaged food company in the world. He began his career at Kraft in 1972, and rose through the ranks to eventually become vice president and director of Grocery Operations for Kraft USA. Prior to that, he spent seven years living and working overseas and was responsible for Operations in both Europe and Asia-Pacific, respectively.

Debrowski's affiliations include Calera Capital Advisory Board, Mattel Children's Foundation, and Save the Children. He is serving as a board member of the Speech and Language Development Center, and he was a board member of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School Advisory Board. Also, he has served as a guest speaker about global operations at the UCLA Anderson School over last 10 years.

Debrowski earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture.

The committee for this year's award consists of the following:

- Edwin Keh, Faculty, The Wharton School University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A. (Chair)
- Suresh Chand, Louis A. Weil, Jr., Professor of Management, Krannert School of Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.
- Sushil Gupta, Professor, College of Business Administration, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.
- Martin K. Starr, Emeritus Professor, Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, U.S.A, and Emeritus Professor, Columbia University, New York, U.S.A.
- Christopher S. Tang, University Distinguished Professor, Edward W. Carter Chair in Business Administration, UCLA Anderson School, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.