



**Name in English:** Pauline Lo Alker  
**Name in Chinese:** 梁佩玲  
**Name in Pinyin:** Liáng Pèilíng  
**Gender:** Female  
**Birth Year:** 1943  
**Birth Place:** Guangzhou (Canton), China  
**Philanthropy:**

**Profession (s):** Entrepreneur, Computer technician

**Education:** B.A., Mathematics, 1964, Arizona State University; B.A., Music, 1964, Arizona State University

**Award(s):** 1986, Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur Award from California Governor's Conference on Women in Business; 1986, Distinguished Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advancement of Science & Engineering from the Chinese-American Engineers & Scientists Association of Southern California; 1987, Outstanding Women Entrepreneur Award from Peninsula Resource for Women; 1988, Woman Warriors Award from Pacific Asian American Women; 1995, Business/Community Service Award from Asian Business Association; 1995, Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Association of Women Entrepreneurs; 1996, World of Today and Tomorrow Award from Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County; 1996, Outstanding Service Award from "M" Society West; 1997, Women of Achievement "Entrepreneur Award" from Women's Fund; 1998, Entrepreneur Award from the Committee of 100; 2002, Technology Pioneer Award from the Asian American Manufacturers Association.

**Contribution(s):** A Silicon Valley entrepreneurial hero. She transformed Network Peripherals Inc. (NPI) from a small start up to a respected, established, publicly traded company. Growing up as a child in Hong Kong, she lived in the shadows of her two brothers. When she applied to Northwestern, her parents intercepted the acceptance letter offering a full music scholarship simply because her brother could not get in. She and her elder brother instead went to Arizona State University, where she fell in love with computers.

As a woman and a recent immigrant, Pauline Lo Alker could not find a job in computers once out of college and was forced to work as a bookkeeper for Sears & Roebuck. She finally got her foot in the door at General Electric, as a typist in the brand new computer department. From there she became a pioneer in the field, moving to Four Phase Systems as a software engineering manager, then to Intel, and then Convergent Technologies. After working at Convergent, where she sold a half-billion dollars worth of workstations, she started Counterpoint Computers with Fred Kiremidjian. The company built a high performance multi-processor system, before it was acquired by its best customer, Acer.

In 1991, Paul Ely asked Lo Alker to be CEO of his small start up, Network Peripherals, a provider of hardware and software to enhance the speed and efficiency of client/server networks. Her leadership there is now seen as legendary in Silicon Valley. Under her leadership, sales were up and the company was doing very well. By 1994, Lo Alker had prepared NPI for its IPO, the company reached a new level of development, and was named among the fastest growing start ups by several publications, such as the Wall Street Journal and New York Times. In 1998, Lo Alker took on another start up, Amplify.net, serving as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board.

**External Links:**

<http://www.goldsea.com/WW/Loalker/loalker4.html>