

An Wang

(February 7, 1920-
March 24, 1990)

Computer Engineer

Chinese American

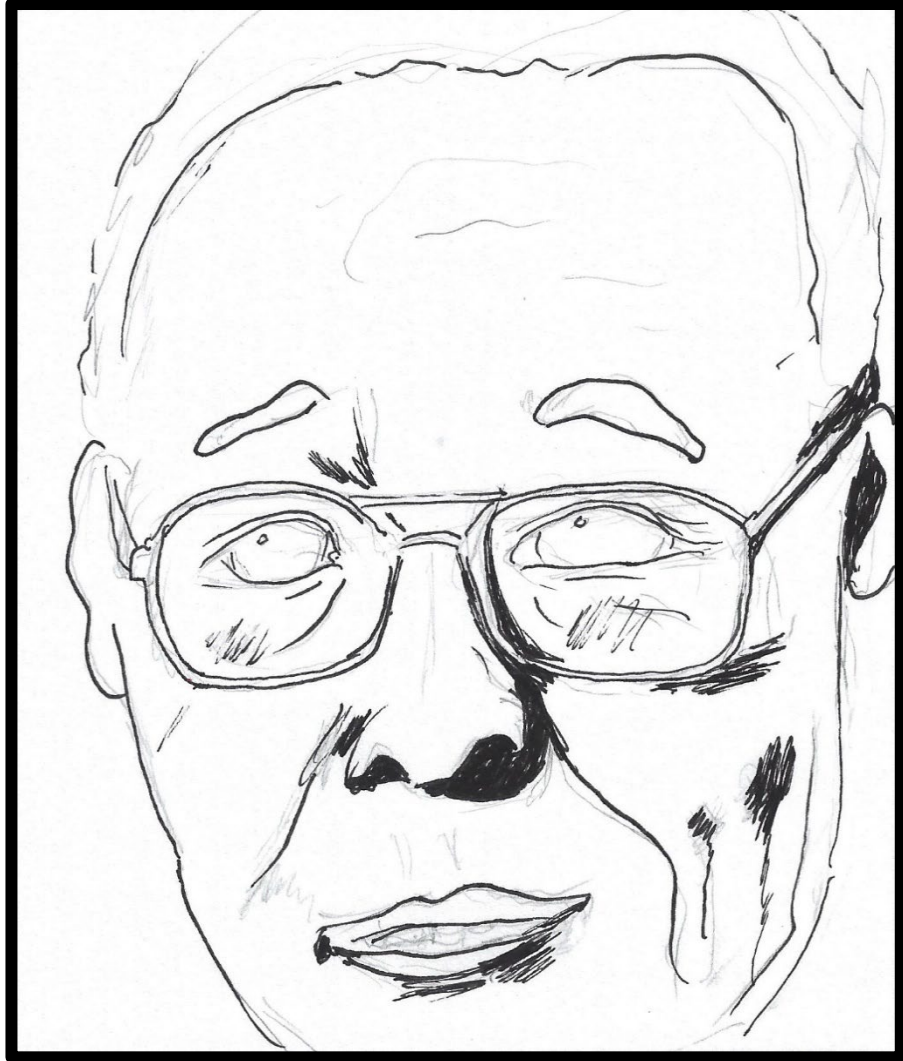
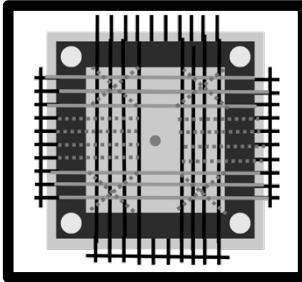
Place of Birth:

Shanghai, China

Place of Death:

Boston, Massachusetts

Inventions: Magnetic
Core Memory;
Magnetic Pulse
Transfer Controlling
Device



Tiffany Hicks-Heistand (SFSU 2025)

An was one of five children raised in a middle-class family. His father was an English teacher, and his mother was a homemaker. In 1945, An went to Virginia for a Chinese engineering program. He later earned a master's and doctorate in applied physics from Harvard University. In 1949, An patented the magnetic core memory and magnetic pulse transfer controlling device (MPTC). The former is the technology and the latter is the controller. Together they allow computers to store data more efficiently and reliably. An held more than 30 patents, had 23 honorary degrees, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1988.