2008 Award Recipient

Alfred A. Molinari Jr. ’63

Fred Molinari, though markets rise and fall, and bubbles float and burst, you have always landed on your feet. With your positive outlook and your genius for cutting-edge products, you have survived the tumultuous decades of the digital revolution and invariably come out on top.

You got your start managing a very small enterprise—Tech News, WPI's student newspaper. A hardworking scholarship student, you furthered your education with a master's degree in electrical engineering from Northeastern University, and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Early on, you found the traditional corporate mold too confining and knew that you had go your own way.

The company you founded, Data Translation, is now a world leader in the field of data acquisition and monitoring. Launched in 1974, during a recession, with borrowed money, it has grown into a multimillion dollar corporation with worldwide presence. As president and CEO, you oversee research and development of precision products for the test and measurement market, with applications in medicine, manufacturing, and media transmission.

You pioneered the Media 100 line of products, which put professional multimedia editing capabilities at the fingertips of anyone with a personal computer. You saw this as a great equalizer to help the "little guy" compete. You also foresaw the community-building power of Web-based production and broadcast, a full decade before the emergence of social networking, podcasting, and the likes of YouTube. "People will start making friends with strangers across the sea," you predicted. "It will be very difficult for societies to be closed off from each other again. I see this as a way to help break down the barriers to worldwide peace."

Because you value your WPI education, you have worked to nurture other technological entrepreneurs, through WPI's Venture Forum and the Massachusetts High Tech Council. You have given back to your alma mater as a trustee, a generous donor, and a member of the steering committee for The Campaign for WPI.

Fred Molinari, we are pleased to present to you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.