2005 Award Recipient

Eric A. Hahn ’80

Eric Hahn, you are an icon for the Information Age, a high-tech visionary, and a role model for WPI students and alumni who dream of changing the world of technology. Your career began at WPI, where you were one of a few early majors in the exciting new field of computer science.

Upon graduation, your career both mirrored and influenced the leading edge of the computer field. At Bolt, Beranek, and Newman you worked on the Arpanet, precursor to the Internet. As vice president and general manager of Convergent Technologies, you helped make Unix the most widely employed multi-user general purpose operating system in the world. You ran the cc:Mail division of Lotus, which developed commercial e-mail software for personal computers.

Your success grew. You founded and served as CEO for Collabra Software, a leading provider of software that helped business people work together. In 1995, Collabra caught the attention of the rapidly growing Netscape Communications, which bought your company. You then served as chief technical officer for Netscape, guiding the company’s technical direction and long-range product strategy. In fact, you were the chief proponent of Netscape’s open source strategy. You served Netscape as a member of its executive committee and as general manager of the company’s Server Products Division.

In 1998, you founded Inventures Group, an early-stage venture firm in Palo Alto. After almost two decades as an entrepreneur, you began investing in, joining the boards of, and directing a small group of emerging companies. Your success is apparent in the list of increasingly well-known companies served by Inventures: Red Hat, Opsware, Good Technologies, and RemarQ. And you continue to push the technological envelope, having founded two new companies, Proofpoint and Lookout Software, that were subsequently acquired by Microsoft.

You truly are a leader in the computer field and the high-technology revolution. You have generously made certain that this fascinating history is preserved for the future, serving as a trustee and major supporter of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California.

You have supported your alma mater not only through your leadership, but also through your generous gifts of resources and time. WPI is particularly grateful for your assistance in establishing its Silicon Valley Project Center, securing opportunities for current and future students to experience the high-tech environment of Silicon Valley.
Eric Hahn, it is with great pride and pleasure that WPI presents you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.