2010 Award Recipient

Jiong Ma '90 (MS)

Jiong Ma, your keen understanding of the intersection between business and science has enabled you to build a highly successful career of spotting opportunity on the horizon.

After completing your undergraduate studies in physics at Lanzhou University in China, you came to WPI to earn a master's degree in electrical engineering. You went on to earn a doctorate in electrical engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder. A graduate of the Kauffman Fellows Program, you have published or co-authored 15 technical papers and hold a U.S. patent.

You went on to several senior positions at Lucent Technologies and Bell Labs, where you played leadership roles in product portfolio strategy, new product development launches for optical and data networking, and research and product development. You were also a founding team member of Onetta, a fiber networks start-up company, and a technical staff member of Nortel Networks.

With your deep technical knowledge and broad business experience, you plunged into the fast-paced world of venture capital. You joined 3i, a global private equity firm, where you led investment in the information technology and cleantech sectors. You then joined Braemar Energy Ventures in Boston where you currently seek breakthrough technologies in the energy sector. After two years with the firm, you were promoted to partner, becoming one of few women who have successfully climbed to the top of the venture capital field.

In your work at Braemar Energy, you have said that you are "called upon to think as an investor, an entrepreneur, and a scientist," a combination of skills that is highly valued at WPI. You demonstrate to our students how an engineering education can be the launch-pad for a successful business career. We are proud to recognize you today with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.