Michael Briere, in a few short years you've taken the knowledge and experience you gained as a WPI student and translated it into an extraordinarily productive career as a researcher and corporate executive, one that has already brought you significant acclaim.

After receiving your bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from WPI in 1984, you continued on to work toward a master's in physics, which you would earn in 1987. As a research assistant at WPI, you helped explore the dielectric properties of ceramic packaging material. This work was a stepping stone to more advanced research, first as an engineer at IBM, where you worked on semiconductor materials development, and then as a guest scientist at the Hahn-Meitner Institute in Berlin, where you studied the effects of radiation on solids. The invitation to work at this prestigious government-run research laboratory, an honor normally reserved for scientists with doctorates, is an indication of the great promise you showed early on.

While in Germany, you pursued doctoral studies in physics at the Technical University of Berlin, then, in 1992 you joined the research staff at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Working in the high-temperature physics division, you led a project focusing on the interaction of highly charged ions with solids. Your work uncovered several nanometer-scale surface phenomena with potential medical applications.

In 1996, Cherry Semiconductor Corporation recruited you to be its director of technology development and corporate chief scientist. When not in the lab, you served as an adjunct associate professor of physics at the University of Rhode Island, helping graduate students launch their own research careers. In your next post, as vice president of power integrated circuits at Vicor Corporation, you helped guide the development of semiconductor devices and integrated circuits. Vicor, recognizing your knowledge and management acumen, allowed you to establish Picor Corporation, a Vicor "spin-in". Under your leadership, Picor developed three product platforms and released six products to production.

Today, as vice president of integrated circuit development at International Rectifier Corporation, you are helping this worldwide maker of integrated circuits for power management applications develop new technologies for wafer fabrication processes, device design and characterization, and electronic design automation and testing.

Over the years, you have given more than 80 presentations at international scientific forums and meetings, and you have published your research in some 75 articles in scientific journals. Among your publications is your doctoral thesis, which was printed in its entirety by an international journal, a rare honor for a student work.

Michael Briere, for your visionary leadership and entrepreneurial spirit, we are pleased to present to you the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.