2008 Award Recipient

Maryann Bagdis Goebel '73

Maryann Bagdis Goebel, since graduating from WPI with a degree in mathematics, your impressive 35-year career in information technology has spanned the globe.

You entered WPI with aspirations of eventually teaching math, yet you have made your mark within major corporations around the world—over the last 15 years you have served in the critical role of chief information officer within various organizations. In your current position as global CIO for DHL Express, you oversee the company's IT initiatives in 220 countries in the Americas, Asia Pacific, the Middle East, and Africa; as chair of its IT board, you help shape the strategic direction of information technology at DHL.

Before joining DHL Express, you made an impact in the automotive industry as CIO for General Motors North America. You joined GM in 1997 as CIO for its Truck Group, later held the same title for General Motors Europe, and served as its chief strategy officer for IT. In 2005 you received the "100 Leading Women in the North American Auto Industry" award. You've also held senior IT leadership positions at Frito-Lay/PepsiCo, Bell Atlantic NYNEX, Texas Instruments, and Aérospatiale, among others.

As one of 17 women in the Class of 1973 (the second WPI class to matriculate women students), you have credited your alma mater with, among other things, helping build your self-confidence. Indeed, WPI is proud to have provided a foundation from which you have built a long and successful career—from your early days as a computer programmer at the Philadelphia Electric Company, to your current post at DHL.

As one who thrives on movement and change, you have held upward of 30 positions in over 10 major organizations, living and working around the world. Several years ago, one of your former colleagues and mentors spoke about "blooming where you are planted" in order to achieve success.

Maryann Bagdis Goebel, because you so clearly bloom no matter where you are planted, WPI is proud to honor you today with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.