2003 Award Recipient

Michael R. Paige ’68

Michael Paige, you have been a pioneer and a leader in the high technology industry, taking a variety of companies to the cutting edge of innovation and commercialization. Having managed R&D organizations in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium, you now provide your expertise to academia, as chairman and professor of information and computer technology at Endicott College.

Since the beginning of your career, you have reveled in innovation. In your senior year of electrical engineering studies, you were one of the very few chosen to experiment with the flexible course plan, predecessor to the WPI Plan. You dropped all required courses and devised a curriculum suited to your needs. You secured a fellowship at the University of Illinois, where you earned your master's in 1969 and your Ph.D. in 1971.


In 1988, after earning your MBA in international business from Boston University and holding leadership positions with WANG Labs and Gerber Scientific Instruments, you joined Agfa, which develops electronic equipment for the graphic arts market. You played a key role in Agfa's successful transition from a provider of phototypesetting products to a worldwide leader in electronic prepress equipment.

Twelve years later, your experience in inspiring innovation made you the ideal candidate to lead Xerox's fabled Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). You enhanced the center's reputation for excellence and maximized Xerox shareholder value by increasing the financial contribution from a large stream of intellectual property—from bioinformatics, to technologies for e-commerce, to printing and publishing. Once again, you created a dynamic environment nurturing creativity and innovation, and found new ways to share this with the world. Most recently, you were president and CEO of System Detection Inc., an early-stage intrusion detection and e-security software company.

You have shared your expertise generously, serving as an Industrial Advisory Board member to the RIT School of Printing and Publishing. You lecture widely and have published more than 50 technical papers in computer technology. Your talents have been recognized by your membership in the national honor societies for engineering, mathematics, electronics, business, science and drama.
Michael Paige, it is with great pleasure that WPI recognizes your achievements by presenting to you the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.