2008 Award Recipient

Robert A. Brown III ’78

Bob Brown, your professional achievements in the printing industry over the last three decades have made your alma mater proud.

Indeed, your work has always been of pressing nature. As the CEO of Goss International—maker of printing presses—you lead an organization with 4,100 employees, nine manufacturing facilities around the world, and a global sales and service network. Your company manufactures the presses on which 70 percent of American newspapers, including the New York Times and the Boston Globe, are printed. Under your direct leadership, Goss has significantly strengthened its technology platform, service capabilities, and ability to deliver value for customers. And, since becoming CEO six years ago, you have led the company from $400 million in sales to over $1.1 billion last year.

After graduating from WPI, you took your mechanical engineering degree to Harris Corporation, where, having been hired by a fellow WPI alum, you worked as a design engineer. Your perseverance and determination served you well as you earned an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University in 1985, and as you worked your way up to the position of CEO of Heidelberg Web Systems, the company that subsequently bought Harris. You held leadership positions at Heidelberg and its predecessors for 20 years, including a decade’s tenure as president, during which time you oversaw the development and commercialization of the gapless technology incorporated in the Sunday press series.

You’ve taken your professional knowledge to better your community by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of NPES—the Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing, and Converting Technologies—and Printing Industries of America (PIA), as well as various charitable organizations. In 1993, at your class’s 15th reunion, you received the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement. In a note to WPI following the awards luncheon, you wrote, "WPI is a great institution because of the people that make the effort to keep moving forward. I truly am honored and will always owe much to the school." In fact, your alma mater is indebted to you, for exemplifying so beautifully the mission and goals of WPI.

Bob Brown, we are pleased to honor you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.