2008 Award Recipient

Stephan A. Mezak '78

Steve Mezak, since graduating with high distinction from WPI with a degree in computer science, you have achieved tremendous professional success in the field of software development. Today, you are widely recognized as a successful technical entrepreneur and an international outsourcing expert. Your experience and advice are sought by corporate leaders around the globe.

A veteran of six start-up companies, including Aspect Development (sold to i2 for $9 billion) and Digital Market (sold to Agile Software for $75 million), you have served in a variety of management and technical roles during the past 25 years, including CTO and CEO. In 2001 you founded Accelerance, with the goal of sharing your expertise with companies in the United States and abroad on successfully integrating in-house and outsourced development teams to create dramatic cost and time savings. In the words of one of your clients, "Accelerance has mastered outsourcing."

As an internationally acclaimed speaker, author, and consultant, you have shown hundreds of software executives how to use outsourced development as a major strategic advantage for developing their software. Your most recent book on this subject, *Software without Borders: A Step-By-Step Guide to Outsourcing Your Software Development*, received the Gold Independent Publisher Book Award in the Computer/Internet category. You also host a popular blog devoted to the principles of *Software without Borders*.

You are an advocate and practitioner of lifelong learning, having studied at UC Berkeley and City University in London. You are also an active participant in the academic life of your alma mater, sharing your expertise with new generations of WPI students and faculty as a member of the university’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Advisory Board. Your leadership helps WPI nurture and enhance the excellence of its electrical and computer engineering programs.

Steve Mezak, you display the signature WPI intelligence, spirit, and know-how in all of your endeavors. WPI is proud to honor you today with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.