

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

ICHABOD WASHBURN YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS TO

NAVEEN SELVADURAI '02

THIS AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

NAVEEN SELVADURAI, less than a decade since graduating from WPI, you became part of the social media revolution that continues to transform communication at its most fundamental levels. We recognize you today for what you have already achieved and the continuing trajectory of your career.

You began your career as an engineer, first at Lucent Technologies and then at Sun Microsystems, and consulted for New York-based Run Tones. You served as a lead architect at Socialight and served as a senior software architect with the Global Digital Business Group at Sony Music Entertainment. In this role, you oversaw and developed various applications that dealt with content management and distribution of mobile products and were the lead developer of Sony's Music Box mobile application.

Always seeking ways to use computers to help people, to enhance the real world—not just virtual reality—you began to realize the computing power resting in our pockets: the smart phone. Simultaneously, you were building and sharing your own lists of favorite places with friends and family, and wondering how you could record and share your world travels using your phone. The seeds of a new social network were planted.

In 2008, you co-founded Foursquare, a location-based social networking website for mobile devices that enables people to “check in” to specific places and let their friends know where they are. Foursquare launched in 2009—doubling users to 10 million and resulting in an early billion check-ins worldwide. Where so many social networks can be criticized for doing the opposite of their claim, yours has the aim of bringing people together in real places for real, in-person interaction. Your role in foursquare's rise rightfully earned you a spot on *Inc.* magazine's 30 Under 30 list in 2010.

Today you are bringing more new ideas to fruition as a partner with Expa, a start-up studio which works with proven founders to develop and launch new companies. In this role, you are co-founder and chairman of Kit, an exploration in product recommendations, and president and chairman of Current, a next-generation payments platform that helps people move money freely with anyone, anywhere.

Naveen Selvadurai, you exemplify the WPI ideal of using technology to make a positive difference in the world. The WPI Alumni Association is proud to recognize you today with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.

June 2, 2017

President, WPI Alumni Association