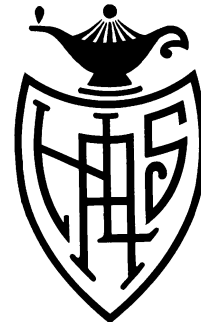


*DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI - 2011*

**CHRIS BREDO BERGHOFF**

**CLASS OF 1971**



Chris Bredo Berghoff was born in Newport, Rhode Island, on July 3, 1952, to Henry Lee and Catherine Berghoff. He was one of five children, four boys and one girl. The Berghoff family moved from Dearborn, Michigan, to Albert Lea in the early 60's. Chris attended Albert Lea High School, where he participated in swimming, baseball, track, and intramural football. He was a member of the Letterman's Club his senior year, graduating in 1971. Chris and his siblings thoroughly enjoyed growing up and creating excitement in Albert Lea. Chris held down part-time jobs throughout his teenage years, and he and his brothers enjoyed building and working on motorcycles and cars.

Chris' twin brother Gene said he and his brothers all eventually ended up starting their own manufacturing businesses as a result of their father's influence. Chuck, Chris and Jan each went into the electronics component industry, and Gene into the medical device industry. Their father, who initially started out in engineering, eventually became President and ran Scotsman's Industries Inc. Scotsman's, the world's largest manufacturer of ice machines, was headquartered in Albert Lea for many years and has manufacturing facilities in Europe and Mexico. Their father had learned a lot from his father, Bredo Berghoff, who joined an early stage development company in 1907 by the name of "Ford Motor Company" and had a successful ride working with Ford building automobiles his entire career.

After his high school graduation Chris enrolled in Winona State College, and then later transferred to the University of Minnesota, where he earned his BS degree in Business. Following graduation, he attended Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he earned his MBA.

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**Chris worked with General Electric and then with Honeywell Corporation. He was a manager in the areas of sales, marketing and venture management. He was at Honeywell for ten years when he realized the potential of using microprocessors in small digital, electronic controls.**

**Chris took his creative passions and his knowledge and in 1985, along with Boyd Palsgrove who was an design engineer Chris worked with at Honeywell, founded Control Products Inc. Chris was CEO and Boyd was involved with R/D and Manufacturing Operations. The company prospered over the years and at one time even merged with another small electronics firm that Chris's younger brother Jan Berghoff founded. Before long the company would have operations around the world.**

**Since its founding, Control Products has established itself as a global manufacturing and distribution company with three divisions. Their standard controls division offers a wide variety of off-the-shelf temperature, humidity, timers, proximity, and infra red controls. Their protected home division offers products for home protection that include temperature monitoring, water leakage detection and home based security. Custom OEM designs and manufactures custom electronic control circuits for a broad range of industries, including food service equipment, medical and industrial.**

**In the beginning Control Products needed more resources in regard to R/D so Chris negotiated with outside electrical engineers to design the products they needed in exchange for a royalty on each sale, enabling the company to launch with virtually no development costs.**

**This story told by a friend illustrates Chris' wisdom, caring, and executive leadership. At the outset of the recent recession, Chris was forced to reduce his employment level and all remaining employees were given a pay cut. A few months later when things began to improve all pay levels were re-established, pay that employees gave up was repaid, and some of the employees that were laid off were rehired.**

**According to this storyteller, when people are given respect and involvement and an opportunity to be a part of what you are creating, you are well on your way to building an enduring business that will live on beyond your lifetime.**

**In addition to his business career Chris also had over 20 years' experience as an Adjunct Professor in Marketing, Leadership, Strategic Planning, and Entrepreneurship at the University of Minnesota and University of St. Thomas graduate schools of business.**

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**Chris guest lectured throughout universities in the United States and Asia and was a Babson Fellow and an Adjunct Professor within the MBA program of Fudan University, one of China's premiere and oldest universities located in Shanghai.**

**Chris married Laura Stenback in 1990. They had three children, Erik, Leah, and Andra.**

**Of all of Chris's accomplishments, none were as important to him as his family, and the relationships he developed throughout the local and global community. Chris was active with his children in various sports programs where he loved coaching his children. An avid athlete himself, Chris loved to play sports; run, bicycle, tennis, basketball, etc. He also enjoyed riding motorcycles and driving classic sports cars.**

**Chris passed away April 7, 2011, in Excelsior, Minnesota, after an 18-month battle against cancer. Chris loved life and all of the people he came in contact with. He lived his life with dignity and enthusiasm, and a life-long focus on positive energy while never losing for a moment his wonderful sense of humor.**