2004 Award Recipient

Karen Daly Cohen ’94

Karen Cohen, you have been a faithful friend and vigorous supporter of your alma mater – during your years on campus, and in the years since your graduation. Your commitment to WPI and especially to the Class of 1994 has been outstanding.

As a student, your activities cut across the spectrum of involvement in university life. A member of Skull, a resident scholar, an athlete in track, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a recipient of the Miriam Rutman scholarship, you let nothing stand in your way.

Your professional life has also been distinguished by your determination to blaze your own path. Having spent several years working for Exxon Corporation, you changed tracks to start your own mural painting business. Unwilling to bow to the conventional, you demonstrated the true entrepreneurial spirit of the WPI graduate. Your relationship to WPI has been marked by that spirit.

As a leader of your class's board of directors, you have provided direction and inspiration for your classmates, and have done a yeoman's job of keeping spirits high. As chair of the Class of 1994's Fifth Reunion Gift effort, you set a new record – 24 percent – for participation in a young alumni class. Your personal efforts in achieving that goal – building the committee, strategizing with the Annual Giving team, calling classmates – were an extraordinary factor in the success of that effort. Since then, you have remained the backbone of the class, helping organize the Fifth Reunion celebration and the 10th Anniversary Gift campaign and Reunion. One time the youngest member of the President's Advisory Council, you were an example of generosity to your classmates, and to all young alumni.

Karen Cohen, in recognition and appreciation of your outstanding efforts on behalf of your alma mater, it is an honor to present you with the John Boynton Young Alumni Award for Service to WPI.