2006 Award Recipient

Frederick Rucker '81

Fred Rucker, for more than twenty-five years your dedication to your alma mater has known no bounds. As a shining example of student and alumni citizenship, and as an effective and influential leader, you have epitomized all that one could hope for in a WPI alumnus and volunteer.

From serving as president of your sophomore, junior and senior class, to your leadership as vice president of Phi Kappa Theta and co-captain of the Men's Varsity Track team, your undergraduate years were marked by a determination that garnered the respect and admiration of your peers. You also earned a distinguished place in WPI's athletic history when, in 1981, you competed in the grueling decathlon at the New England Division III Championships at Bowdoin, winning a first place finish and setting an all New England record.

Your success as a competitor and a team leader were attributes that led to an impressive executive career in telecommunications. After earning a bachelor's degree with distinction in mechanical engineering, you went to AT&T where you had several prominent posts, ultimately becoming managing director south pacific region. In 1990 you joined Sprint as a regional sales and marketing vice president. An opportunity arose to join Bell Canada, and so you commuted to Canada for several years where you became a senior vice president and ultimately the company's chief strategist and total portfolio manager. You then joined the newly formed international joint venture Global One as head of sales, marketing and business development and ultimately became the interim tri-CEO until its sale in 2000. More recently you have served in senior executive roles with two startup companies before founding Capital Management Partners, where you specialize in interim executive and consulting services for clients around the world.

If home is where the heart is, then truly yours resides in Virginia with your wife Kirsten and your five children. But you have always had another home here at your alma mater, where you have made it a priority to be an involved and concerned alumnus. In addition to serving as president of your class, you have aided the Alumni Association in numerous capacities from chair of the Northern New Jersey and New York regional clubs, to class council representative and a head agent. You joined the Association's executive Committee in 1986 and in that capacity, co-chaired career connections and chaired the student alumni interaction committee and the young alumni task force, for which you led an attitudinal study of recent graduates that was the basis of the 1991 Alumni Association master plan. In 1996 you were elected to the WPI Board of Trustees and you have since served on many of its committees including student affairs, physical facilities, budget and finance, technology, audit, executive compensation and the Executive Committee. You have also chaired the advancement committee since 2000, and in that capacity, helped WPI envision its first comprehensive marketing program and complete the Campaign for WPI in 2004 with a record $153.7 million raised. And knowing that a successful fundraising volunteer must also lead by example, you have always stepped forward.
willingly and generously, as a leadership contributor to the Campus Center and as an ongoing member of the President's Advisory Council. Few alumni have done so much as a volunteer for this institution, fewer still while at the same time being achieving such stature in their chosen professional field, but only a precious few have done all that before their 25th Reunion. Indeed, your many contributions and achievements have not gone unnoticed. In recognition of your early and extensive service to WPI you were awarded the John Boynton Young Alumni Award in 1991. Your extraordinary career was celebrated in 1996 with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement. And in 2000, your athletic accomplishments were hailed as you became the 101st inductee in WPI's Athletic Hall of Fame. Fred Rucker, today we turn to you once again to say thank you for all you have done for your alma mater, and to express our sincere pride in all that you have helped WPI to achieve. You are truly a shining example of alumni citizenship. It is therefore with great pleasure that I present to you today the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.