John J. West Jr. ’88

John West, you exemplify the WPI ideals of entrepreneurship and dedication to your alma mater. Since graduating from WPI, your connection to your university has only deepened. You are no stranger to campus, serving on the President’s Alumni Council, the Young Alumni Advisory Council, and the Graduates of the Last Decade Council. Since 1995, you have also been a member of the Annual Fund Board, a critical endeavor that helps generate support for the work of WPI’s faculty and students. Since last year, you have served as chairman of the Advisory Council for the Management Department.

You’ve undertaken these activities while developing an impressive career as an entrepreneur. You wasted no time in making your mark on the business world, founding your own company, EnviroCorp, in 1989. It was later renamed ENSTRAT and, by 1993, had 14 employees and sales of more than $1 million. With this success, you were named the U.S. Small Business Association’s “Young Entrepreneur of the Year” for Massachusetts and New England in 1993. This followed your Achievement Award for Job Creation from the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce in 1991 and being named “Young Entrepreneur of the Year” in 1990 by Central Massachusetts Business Digest.

After selling ENSTRAT in 1996, you went on to serve as partner at Mitchell Madison Group, a New York-based global management consulting firm, before founding Silver Oak Solutions in 1999, a leading provider of procurement and sourcing solutions. In 2005, you sold Silver Oak Solutions to CGI, a publicly traded, $4 billion IT services company. Your distinguished career earned you the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement from WPI in 2003.

Recalling the pillars of your education—Lehr und Kunst, theory and practice—you brought your business experience back to WPI repeatedly to share with students. Certainly, many of them have learned valuable lessons from you.

John West, for all that you do for your university, it is an honor to present you with the John Boynton Young Alumni Award for Service to WPI.