2009 Award Recipient

Theodore L. Dysart '94

Ted Dysart, you once noted in an interview with BusinessWeek that the most important qualities in emerging leaders are "courage, candor, and communication skills." These qualities are also highly prized at WPI and are the foundation of your own career as one of the nation's top professionals in senior executive and board recruiting.

Through your work at WIN Enterprise, The Directorship Search Group, and now at Heidrick & Struggles, you have helped solidify leadership at such national and international companies as Avon, Girl Scouts of the USA, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Liberty Mutual, PepsiCo and Pepsi Bottling Group, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, Starbucks, Terex Corporation, and Virgin Mobile USA, to name just a few. Furthermore, in your current role as a managing partner and a leader of the Board Practice at Heidrick & Struggles, you have placed hundreds of executives on the boards of Fortune 500, mid-cap, and private companies.

Since graduating from WPI as one of the first students to major in management information systems, you have quickly risen to the top of your field, bringing distinction to your alma mater. In 2004 Executive Search Review named you one of six "executive recruiters to watch." In 2007 and 2008, you were named to the Directorship 100, a listing of the most influential individuals in corporate governance compiled by Directorship magazine. A respected industry expert, you also participate in the public discussion of corporate governance as a regular commentator in the New York Times, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, and local and regional newspapers.

In addition to your professional work, you continue to give back to your community by your involvement on the Board of Governors of The Smile Train, a nonprofit that provides new smiles to children with cleft lips and palettes in over 75 poor and developing countries around the world.

Ted Dysart, you bring pride to WPI and demonstrate to our students the value of courage, candor, and communication skills. We are pleased to honor you with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.