Hans Koehl ’56

HERBERT F. TAYLOR AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO WPI

Hans Koehl, your involvement in the life of your alma mater is creating a legacy that will benefit WPI students and faculty for generations to come.

You have been a valued member of the WPI community since your days as a student. While pursuing a major in mechanical engineering, you represented WPI on the soccer field and participated in Masque, Peddler, and the Debating Club. You were also a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and served as its president during your senior year. In 1961 you headed a fundraising drive to totally renovate and expand the fraternity house.

After graduating from WPI with distinction, you went on to earn a JD from Stanford University. You then joined Connecticut Engineering and Manufacturing Company, a firm co-founded by your father, Herman Koehl. During your long and distinguished career with the company, now called Spirol International Corporation, serving as its chief executive starting in 1965, you guided the company to its current position as a global leader in the fastener industry. You retired from active management in 2004 but remain connected to this critical part of your life as chairman of Spirol’s Board of Directors.

Despite the demands of your career, you have consistently served your alma mater over the years. Your focus has been on philanthropy and encouraging your classmates and friends to support WPI through various fundraising endeavors. You have served as a class agent and a reunion volunteer, helping to plan activities and raise money in honor of your anniversary class reunions. You established the Koehl Merit Scholarship, and you are a member of WPI’s Presidential Founders, recognizing those who have contributed $100,000 or more to the university. You are a familiar face at alumni events and at events celebrating the President’s Circle, WPI’s leadership group of annual donors.

This is not the first time WPI has seen fit to honor you. In 1996, you received the Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.

Hans Koehl, you are the best kind of leader, one who asks his friends and classmates to follow his example. We are pleased to honor you today with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service.