Merrill Spiller, you are a model of alumni engagement in the life of your alma mater. We are pleased to honor you today for your many contributions to WPI.

As a student, you pursued a major in electrical engineering while immersing yourself in WPI’s vibrant campus life. You were a member of the Radio Club, Masque, and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. After graduation you served in the U.S. Army and then went on to build a distinguished career in electrical engineering. You held several engineering and management positions at The Foxboro Company and leadership positions at Sylvania Electronic Systems and Data Terminal systems. You retired as vice president of manufacturing at Avon Corporation.

Over the years, you have never forgotten your alma mater and the education upon which you built your success. You continue to participate in the life of WPI by attending alumni events, serving as a class agent and a member of your Class Board of Directors, and volunteering for reunion planning. You worked to keep your classmates connected by helping to maintain the class website for many years. At your 50th and 55th reunions, your classmates and friends rarely saw you without your camera, as you documented these milestone events. Thanks to your involvement in Tech Old Timers, a social club for retired WPI alumni, faculty, and staff, you remain a familiar face on campus. As treasurer, you play an important role in the group’s mission of stewardship of the university and alumni engagement.

In addition to giving your time and talent, you have generously supported the university. You are a member of the President’s Circle and the Alden Society, which recognizes those who have made planned gifts to the university. You were also a driving force behind the fundraising initiative for the Class of 1951 50th reunion campaign.

Merrill Spiller, your contributions to the life of WPI will leave a lasting legacy. We are honored to recognize you today with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service.