2004 Award Recipient

Aram Mooradian '59

Aram Mooradian, your alma mater honors you this day, not only for your extraordinary accomplishments, but as a living example of the attributes that WPI hopes to foster in all its students – demonstrated scientific curiosity, deepening intellect, and a passion for discovering ways in which society might be improved – qualities that over a lifetime hold the promise to change our world for the better.

Your journey has taken you on a path of discovery as a worldwide expert in the field of laser technology. After you graduated from WPI in 1959, you pursued your Ph.D. in physics and mathematics at Purdue, graduating with high distinction from both institutions. Soon afterward you joined the prestigious MIT Lincoln Laboratories, where in 1971 you rose to the post of leader of the Quantum Electronics Group, a position you held for over 20 years and one in which you distinguished yourself as a world leader in this emerging field.

By the time you left Lincoln Labs you had already published more than 90 articles, presented over 100 talks in your field at international meetings, and conducted over 150 seminars at universities and research institutes in more than 25 countries. As an expert in laser technology you hold memberships as a fellow in both the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America. You have received numerous prestigious awards, provided editorial services to the most esteemed professional journals, and served as advisor to corporations, NASA, NATO and the U.S. Department of Defense. You hold more than 40 patents.

In the early 1990s your mission took a turn toward commercialization as you formed Micracor, a phototonics company where you served variously as chairman of the board, executive vice president and chief technology officer. This East Coast business venture was followed by the launching on the West Coast in 1998 of your new company, Novalux, which introduced the concept of high-power semiconductor-based laser technology. Today, as CTO of Novalux, you continue to evaluate and consider next-generation laser solutions for a variety of applications on the cutting edge of innovation.

Aram Mooradian, the name of your company, Novalux, means "New Light" in Latin. Your splendid achievements have indeed brought and continue to shed new light and greater understanding of the value and uses of laser technology in so many areas of the world. For your many continuing innovative and farsighted accomplishments, WPI is proud to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.