2000 Award Recipient

David Cyganski ’75

Dave Cyganski, Henry Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." The same can be said about your influence on your alma mater, your discipline and your students. Over the course of nearly three decades, you have amassed an awe-inspiring record of accomplishment and made an indelible mark on this institution.

After earning your bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at WPI, you joined the faculty full-time in 1981. Showing exceptional promise as a teacher and a scholar, you received the first Joseph Samuel Satin Distinguished Fellowship the following year. Two years later, you received the Trustees' Award for Outstanding Teaching, the youngest faculty member ever to receive this honor. These early tributes were harbingers of many others to come, among them the Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Research and Scholarship and the Weston Hadden Professorship in Electrical Engineering.

As a teacher, you are renowned for your enthusiasm and your dedication to helping students develop a passion for learning. As a researcher, you are known for your wide-ranging interests and for the elegance of your methods. Over the years, you have made fundamental contributions to such fields as automatic object recognition, distributed and fault-tolerant computing, and Internet security. This work has garnered the support of many leading corporations and government agencies.

Despite the demands of your teaching and research, you have stepped forward often to serve WPI, and each time your contributions have helped shape the future success of the University. As a member of an advisory committee in the early 1980s, you helped computerize the campus. As chief information officer and vice president for information technology, you oversaw the creation of the campus computer network and laid the groundwork for a modern, integrated administrative computing system. As vice provost, you developed a model that helped the University weather a serious financial aid challenge. Most recently, as chair of the Planning and Implementation Committee, you led a campuswide effort to develop goals for WPI's future.

Dave Cyganski, for your exemplary accomplishments in the many roles you have played through the years, WPI is proud to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.