2000 Award Recipient

F. David Ploss '70

Dave Ploss, you exemplify a true alumni leader and have given of yourself to WPI as have few others. During your student days you embraced the competitive nature of crew as a coxswain and a rower. Since then, you have channeled that energy and spirit to advance the mission of crew and of the University wherever you go.

As an alumnus and a coach, you have been a staunch ally, working to uphold the quality of WPI's crew program. From 1972 to 1987, your coaching career at WPI was nothing short of inspired. From humble beginnings you built a Division III sports program through which young men and women have competed respectably with the best in the world. As a coach and a mentor, you have taken crews as far as they can go -- to become national champions, and to compete in Canadian championships, World championships and the Henley Regatta. You once said, "We can't always win, but we can let people know who WPI is."

Instrumental in the recent transition of crew from a club sport to a varsity sport, your continued involvement and philanthropic support is testimony to your ongoing commitment to the future of crew and the University. You have set a standard of loyalty that others cannot ignore.

Your additional contributions to your alma mater -- as a member of several Reunion committees, as a class agent, as a member of the Citations Committee, and as a Poly Club officer and Executive Committee member -- have made WPI and the Alumni Association stronger.

Dave Ploss, it is with great joy that we recognize your unique contributions to your alma mater and present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.