2004 Award Recipient

Gary Goshgarian '64

Gary Goshgarian, your creative talent in the field of science fiction literature has made you a great source of pride for Worcester Polytechnic Institute and we are pleased to recognize you for these accomplishments.

You first put your writing skills to use while an undergraduate at WPI, where you were an editor of *Tech News* and the *Peddler* and where you started an offbeat humor magazine called *Absolute Zero*. During that time you developed a keen interest in science fiction literature and formed a friendship with an English professor on campus, the late Jim Hensel, which furthered your interest in writing. After graduating from WPI in 1964 with a degree in physics, you earned a master's degree and doctorate in English before joining the English faculty at Northeastern.

A dangerous scuba diving trip off the coast of Mallorca provided the impetus to write your first novel, *Atlantis Fire*, in 1980. Since then you have turned your talents toward writing five biotech thrillers using the pen name Gary Braver. *Rough Beast, The Stone Circle, Elixir, Gray Matter* and your most recent novel, *Flashback*, cover such topics such as genetic engineering, eternal youth and a miracle cure for Alzheimer's disease. You have paid tribute to WPI in several of your novels. Two *Elixir* characters are named after WPI people – Jim Hensel and former WPI President Harry P. Storke – who influenced you greatly while you were on campus. In *Gray Matter* you refer to WPI as an "A list-institution" that a superior student would want to attend.

You are also the editor of three college writing textbooks and of *Horrorscape*, an anthology of modern horror stories including those of Stephen King and Edgar Allen Poe. Mystery writer Robert B. Parker says, "Michael Crichton and Richard Preston have everything to fear from Gary Braver. He is the thriller writer for the new millennium."

Gary Goshgarian, for your creative talents and innovative work in the field of science fiction, we are honored to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.