2009 Award Recipient

Gordon B. Lankton
Gordon Lankton, entrepreneur and civic leader, we honor you today for your years as a dedicated ambassador for this university.

You are a longtime and valued friend of WPI, serving this university with distinction as a trustee and continuing to contribute your time and expertise as trustee emeritus. You have brought your company, Nypro, together with WPI's Corporate and Professional Education division to form the Nypro Leadership Institute, through which Nypro employees gain key knowledge and skills to excel in their careers. Moreover, you have demonstrated your confidence in WPI's ability to solve some of the world's most pressing problems through your generous financial support of the university. You are a member of the Presidential Founders, the President's Advisory Council, and the Alden Society. All in all, you are one of WPI's leading supporters.

You share the WPI ideals of innovation and excellence, as illustrated by your distinguished career. In 1962 you joined Nypro, a manufacturer of custom injection-molded products, and became president in 1969. You had the vision and drive to transform the company into a global operation, partnering with the world's largest and best-run companies. Under your leadership, Nypro grew to include 52 plastics-related operations in 17 countries, with annual sales approaching $1 billion. You accomplished this always with an eye toward economic development. In another bold step, you sold Nypro to your employees, placing it among the largest employee-owned companies in the United States today.

You are a friend to your profession, playing an instrumental role in the establishment of the National Plastics Center and Museum in Leominster, Mass. Having been recognized by your peers, you were named to the Plastics Hall of Fame and earned the title New England Entrepreneur of the Year from Ernst & Young in 2001. In addition, you and your wife, Janet, are leaders in your community, supporting programs at the Ecotarium and the Clinton Public Schools.

In 48 trips to Russia in the past 18 years, you gained a fascination in the art of ancient Russian icons and founded the internationally recognized Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Mass. Gordon Lankton, we are proud to present you with the WPI Award for Distinguished Service in honor of your extraordinary commitment to WPI.