2004 Award Recipient

James S. Adams '49

Jim Adams, for over 50 years you have been an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer for your alma mater. WPI recognizes your inspirational leadership, which has had a significant impact on this university.

Your involvement with WPI began as an undergraduate. Your long list of extracurricular activities includes the soccer and track teams, the yearbook staff and the senior honorary society Skull; you served as president of both Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and your senior class. You are now the permanent president of the Class of 1949.

Upon graduation you were hired by AT&T and worked in its management development program, eventually becoming assistant manager of the Long Lines Division of AT&T’s Central Division in Cincinnati. You left to take a job at Sperry Gyroscope Company on Long Island, where you served as director of systems marketing. In 1968 you went to General Instruments Corporation's electronics division, where you worked in a variety of positions, including vice president and general manager, until your retirement in 1991.

Though busy with your career, family and other interests, you still found time to make WPI a priority. You served as chairman of the New York Committee for Recruiting for WPI, a precursor to our current Alumni Association's program. As chair of the Long Island Alumni Club, you organized alumni events in the area. The Alumni Association's Trustee Committee benefited from your guidance when you served as a member of that group. Perhaps more than anything, you have been the quintessential class volunteer, always there for every class effort, and always wearing a smile. You have played a significant role in the success of numerous reunion celebrations and class gift campaigns, most recently serving as a steering committee member for the 55th Reunion. While encouraging others to support WPI financially, you led by example through your longtime membership in the President's Advisory Council, Presidential Founders and Alden Society.

Jim Adams, for your thoughtful leadership and countless hours serving as a dedicated friend and volunteer of WPI, we are proud to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.