2008 Award Recipient

Michael S. Gutman ’58

Michael Gutman, your leadership, generosity, and genuine desire to give back to your alma mater inspire all those who love WPI.

A self-described no-nonsense type of person, you bring keen intelligence, boundless energy, and a commitment to excellence to all of your endeavors. Indeed, WPI has benefited from these fine traits in numerous ways. Always willing to share your expertise and experiences with others, you have advised the university as a founding member of WPI’s Entrepreneurs Collaborative and as a member of WPI’s Electrical Engineering Advisory Committee, serving as that committee’s chair from 1990 to 1995. A standout volunteer, you led the Class of 1958’s 25th Reunion and highly successful 40th and 50th Anniversary Gift Programs. As a Presidential Founder, you take your place among WPI’s most generous alumni and friends, having matched and exceeded John Boynton’s founding gift of $10,000.

No stranger to WPI accolades, you received the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement in 1993. Your distinguished career includes several highlights, including 10 years at Digital Equipment Corporation, where you established the product management organization. At Apollo Computer, the company credited with creating the workstation revolution, you were vice president for engineering and vice president for business development. While at Apollo, you became involved in what you described as one of the greatest experiences of your career, helping establish the Open Software Foundation and creating a new software standard compatible with UNIX. In 1998 you were named COO of PictureTel. There, you played a key role in building the company to become the leader in the videoconferencing industry.

In addition to your service to WPI, you worked with the Cambridge Business Development Center, bringing together business mentors with CEOs from small companies. With your wife, Lois, you were active with your synagogue’s youth groups in Framingham, Mass.

Michael Gutman, for exemplifying all that it means to be a WPI alumnus, we honor you with the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.