1999 Award Recipient

Roy F. Bourgault '42

Roy Bourgault, an educator of your mettle is truly what makes the University shine. In the classroom and in the local community, you have used your talents to help shape developing minds.

You began your career at American Steel & Wire -- now U.S. Steel -- just as the country's war machinery was heating up. During World War II your service in the Army Air Corps took you as far as Cairo and Casablanca, yet you still managed to follow the WPI football team in the military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

After the war, you worked as a metallurgist and refined your knowledge with a master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology. In 1955 you returned to WPI as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, rising to associate professor and then full professor. You faithfully served two terms as secretary of the faculty before retiring in 1985.

For three decades, your camera captured the Engineers in their moments of glory. You officiated at track and field events and served on committees that kept all the sports programs on track. In the 1970s, when the fate of WPI's football program was up in the air, you rallied more than a thousand supporters to keep the Engineers on the field. You earned your place in the WPI Athletic Hall of Fame as an unsung hero of WPI athletics.

WPI students were not the only beneficiaries of your teachings. You left your mark, as a professional and an educator, on the American Society for Metals and the Materials Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. Today you are respected as an independent expert in the field of failure analysis, and as the "grandpa" who has taught countless boys to whittle. The citizens of Worcester County have been enriched by your service to the Mohegan Boy Scout Council, your breathtaking photographs, and your intriguing wood carvings. Although you and your wife, Betty, have traveled far and wide, you have not strayed far from the WPI campus for very long, and for this we are truly thankful.

Roy Bourgault, it is with great pride that we present you today with the William R. Grogan Award for Support of the Mission of WPI.