2001 Award Recipient

Raymond R. Hagglund ’56
Ray Hagglund, you've stepped forward to serve WPI on so many occasions and in such varied capacities over the last 40 years, you've earned a special place in WPI history. Committed faculty member, teacher, advisor and mentor to two generations of undergraduate and graduate students, you have also given freely of your time and resources as a dedicated alumnus.

You enrolled at WPI in 1951, an event that changed your life forever. Your active four years on campus included membership in Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma Kappa and Skull. In 1956, you earned a degree in mechanical engineering. Rather than starting a career in private industry, you were convinced by Professor Ken Scott to pursue an advanced degree and a career in teaching. And with that you began a lifelong commitment to WPI and its students.

In 1962 you introduced the concept of project-based learning to the freshman year. With this visionary approach to teaching, you became enthusiastically involved in the development of the WPI Plan. When the need for an IQP office arose, you rolled up your sleeves and led an unprecedented grassroots effort to renovate the third floor of the Washburn Shops, an effort that involved the sweat equity of faculty, students, staff, and members of the physical plant union.

You have generously supported your alma mater as a member of the President's Advisory Council, the Alden Society and the Presidential Founders. You have contributed to many fund-raising campaigns through the years, as both a leadership donor and an active volunteer. You have served as a solicitor for the PAC, a member of the 40th Anniversary Gift Committee and co-chair of the faculty and staff campaign for The Campaign for WPI.

You have generously given of your time as a member of your class board and numerous class reunion committees and as the faculty representative to the Alumni Association. You served as secretary of the faculty from 1991 to 1994, and worked on a number of high-level committees to address important strategic issues facing your alma mater.

You have also enjoyed your share of professional honors. You received a summer faculty fellowship at NASA's Manned Space Flight Center and the Trustees' Award for Outstanding Teaching, and were named the first Kenneth G. Merriam Professor. In 1999 you received the Morgan Distinguished Instructorship.

Ray Hagglund, it is with great appreciation that we honor you for the extraordinary way in which you have helped carry on a legacy of alumni involvement and support, a legacy that is one of your alma mater's proudest traditions, by presenting you with the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service.