2006 Award Recipient

Stephen J. Hebert '66

Steve Hebert: You have held many titles around here, but your mission has never wavered. For almost four decades, you have devoted yourself exclusively to the best interests of your alma mater. Although it's hard to define exactly what it is you do, everyone agrees that we couldn't do it without you.

It is notable that the book "Two Towers"-which is the recorded history of WPI's first 100 years-leaves off about the time you arrived. Since then, there is not a chapter of WPI's story that does not bear your imprint. It's hard to find a corner of the campus that has not been touched by your presence-from the transformation of West Street into a lively gathering place, to the thriving Campus Center, to the majesty of Gateway Park, which points to way to the future.

Perhaps your greatest talent is in bringing together diverse parties to work for the common good of WPI. One of your early accomplishments was to secure the Alumni Association under the umbrella of the university, where you have steered us through exciting changes and challenges. You have been the face of WPI to the outside world and the steward of its financial health. With your help, countless alumni have enjoyed the satisfaction of bestowing their generosity on their alma mater. From daily operations, to picture-perfect commencement ceremonies, you have orchestrated every aspect of campus services and administration. In the official records of WPI business, there is probably not a memo on any matter, large or small, that does not bear the initials "SJH."

Without drawing attention to yourself, or taking yourself too seriously, you have made it your life's work to uphold the well-being of all those who come here to learn, to teach, and to work. In short, it is impossible to imagine WPI without you.

Steven J. Hebert, it is an honor to bestow on you today the William R. Grogan Award for Support of the Mission of WPI.