Albert G. Anderson, Jr.
Head Librarian -- George C. Gordon Library, 1963-1992

by Matt Hall, Assistant Director, Gordon Library

Albert G. Anderson, Jr. started his career at WPI in 1963 with a dual appointment as a faculty member and the Head Librarian. One of his first tasks was to oversee the construction and design of a new library that would house the many departmental collections spread out around the campus. After years of planning and with financial assistance from the Gordon Estate, the George C. Gordon Library was dedicated on October 28, 1967.

Anderson’s vision for a library fitting both the current and future needs of WPI students allowed him to oversee the construction of a progressive building that contained much more than books. He insisted on including room for the College Computer Center, seminar rooms, a 24 hour study room, and open areas for displays. Although multi-faceted libraries are common today, Mr. Anderson’s foresight led to a facility that was year’s ahead of its time.

His later years at Gordon Library were spent fundraising, recruiting and training staff, and advocating for the necessary budget increases to keep pace with the rapidly changing world of information. He worked tirelessly until his retirement in 1991.

Mr. Anderson graduated from North Dakota State University and received an MA from the University of Wyoming in 1953, and a master’s degree in library science from the University of Illinois in 1956. He passed away Sunday, February 17, 2002.