

# James P. Dunn '67

## HERBERT F. TAYLOR AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO WPI

James Dunn, we are proud to recognize you for your work as a co-founder of the WPI Venture Forum and as a mentor to many budding entrepreneurs, and for numerous other activities you have helped enable.

The seeds of the WPI Venture Forum were planted in 1990, when you met the late Jim Fee '65 at an MIT Enterprise Forum. You asked each other how you could start a similar endeavor at WPI. While at Homecoming a few months later, you mentioned the idea to electrical engineering professor Bill Grogan, who recommended bringing Bill Gasko '62, an adjunct professor in entrepreneurship, into the discussion. What began as a meeting of three was solidified into the WPI Venture Forum in 1991. Hundreds of inventors and innovators, venture capitalists and seasoned professionals in the WPI community continue to benefit from the Venture Forum's monthly programs, and the seminars, competitions, and other programs offered throughout the year.

Your impressive career and extensive work with NASA also brings much pride and recognition to WPI. A longtime entrepreneur, you have amassed more than 30 years of experi-

ence in a variety of high-technology ventures with companies ranging from start-ups to Fortune 100 organizations. Most recently, you have brought your ingenuity back to your alma mater. With a patent for a "Fuel Cell-Powered



Electric Aircraft" you are leading the development of the world's first fuel cell-powered electric airplane. Your work on this project has included more than 50 WPI students and volunteers and received much international acclaim from such publications as *Popular Science*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Smithsonian Air*

*& Space*, *The Economist*, *BusinessWeek*, and the *Boston Globe*, among many others. In addition, you were recently recognized by *Fuel Cell Management* magazine as one of the world's "Top 30 Contributors" to the fuel cell field. You have also mentored many students on alternative and renewable energy projects.

James Dunn, your work as an innovator and to establish the WPI Venture Forum fuels both the hearts and minds of aspiring entrepreneurs in the WPI community and the region. We are honored to recognize you today with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.