Robert Martin ’75
HERBERT F. TAYLOR AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO WPI

Bob Martin, you have given an abundance of time, talent, treasure, and service as a trustee to WPI over the years. We are pleased to recognize you today for all you have done for your alma mater. Your service to WPI began with the WPI Fund Board. As a board member and class agent, you became grounded in the mission and priorities of University Advancement at WPI. This experience prepared you well for leadership roles yet to come. As your fellow trustee and former Fund Board chair Stu Kazin ’61 once said, “Bob brought new life and energy to the Fund Board.”

In 2007 you were appointed to the Board of Trustees, just as WPI entered the leadership phase of if...The Campaign to Advance WPI, a $200 million comprehensive fundraising effort and the largest in WPI history. You were appointed chair of the Advancement Committee, which evolved into the campaign’s volunteer leadership body. You have served actively in that capacity since 2008 and successfully led campaign efforts with your classmate and national campaign chair Mike Dolan. Under your combined leadership, if...The Campaign to Advance WPI exceeded its $200 million goal a year early.

Through your work on the board’s Marketing Committee you helped shape the branding, marketing, and communication for the campaign while also helping shape and elevate the branding and reputation of the university. Throughout your tenure as a trustee, you have made an impact through your contributions on the Academic Planning, Audit, Budget & Finance, Executive Compensation, and Nominations & Governance committees. In addition, you have shared your experience and knowledge with a number of undergraduates as a trustee mentor. You lead by example. While promoting the campaign to others, you and your wife, Randie, have been ardent supporters of WPI. You are generous donors to WPI’s Annual Fund through your leadership giving to a President’s Circle Scholarship in honor of Randie’s father, Edward Chase ’34. You named the Chase Courtyard and Martin Conference Room in East Hall, and you have supported the Sports & Recreation Center and WPI’s latest facilities project, the Foisie Innovation Studio, which reflects the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship of your professional life. In recognition of your lifetime philanthropy, you and Randie are members of the Presidential Founders.

You have contributed countless hours to WPI, hosting events at your home, volunteering for your reunions, attending WPI events, and traveling extensively to promote and advocate for WPI. At any time of year, you may be found meeting with fellow trustee Glenn Yee ’74 in Hong Kong, at an alumni event in Maine, entertaining alumni and donors at a Red Sox game in Fenway Park, or at the University Advancement offices on campus developing a volunteer management database system.

Bob Martin, WPI’s future is built upon the shoulders of giants like you. The WPI Alumni Association is honored to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.

Michael Aghajanian ’80
HERBERT F. TAYLOR AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO WPI

Mike Aghajanian, you once said that WPI is the perfect place to make a difference. We are pleased to recognize you today for the difference you are making through your service to your alma mater.

As a student, you had set your sights on the Air Force Academy and becoming a pilot. But relatives in Worcester turned your attention to WPI and you have never looked back. After graduating, you went on to earn an MBA in technology management from the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine; you are also a graduate of GE’s Manufacturing Management Program.

Your impressive career in manufacturing management includes positions of increasing leadership at GE, Ernst & Young, Coopers & Lybrand, and PRTM Management Consultants. You retired from PRTM, which is now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers, as managing director.

Even with a demanding career and keeping up with your busy family life, you have found time to give back to WPI. Most notably you are the first graduate to serve as a co-advisor for an off-campus project, working with students at the WPI Project Center in Melbourne, Australia, in D-Term 2013. You took on your role whole-heartedly and are described as performing “like a seasoned veteran.” You helped the project team prepare from your home base in California, dedicating six hours of online meeting time every week to these students. While on site in Melbourne, you were always available for meetings with students and sponsors; you shared your knowledge and examples from your own career, and connected the students to key contacts. Your co-advisor, Holly Ault, credits you with teaching these students “a tremendous amount about teamwork, business acumen, and interpersonal skills.” She describes you as “a fabulous role model.” You also took on your fair share of responding to IQP drafts, critiquing practice presentations, and managing the countless administrative details required of on-site advisors.

This year you continued your service to WPI students and faculty, co-advising at the Venice Project Center. Fabio Carrera, center director, described you as “one of the most effective co-advisors I have ever worked with in my three decades of IQP advising.”

You have shared your knowledge and experience as a member of the Foisie School of Business Dean’s Council of Strategic Advisors, and you currently serve as a member of WPI’s Innovation & Entrepreneurship Council of Strategic Advisors. You support WPI students through the Michael Aghajanian ’80 Family Scholarship Fund, and you served as the keynote speaker at a School of Business networking event in New York City. You have also played a key role in organizing alumni in Southern California. You are a member of the Paul Merage School of Business Dean’s Advisory Board and Dean’s Leadership Circle.

Mike Aghajanian, we agree whole-heartedly with all the faculty you have worked with and supported at WPI—you are a fabulous role model for our students and your fellow alumni. The WPI Alumni Association is honored to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.