Alma Mater
(Willard Hedlund ’10)

Dear Worcester Tech, our Worcester Tech,
   Our praises ring to thee,
To alma mater, good and true,
   We pledge our loyalty.

Long have we felt thy guiding hand,
   Thy teachings broad and free,
With praises loud in every land
   We’ll show our love for thee.

—Refrain—
Then here’s to good old Worcester Tech,
   Come, fellows, join in our refrain,
Wave high the colors, Crimson and Gray,
   For good old Worcester Tech.

As years roll on and changes bring
   To all things great and small,
We still will thee in reverence hold
   We’ll greet thee one and all.

In accents which no one may doubt
   In terms so strong and bold
The world will know thy worth to us
   Increases many fold

—Refrain—
The WPI Athletic Hall of Fame honors excellence in athletics. Individuals are recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship and character, as well as their extraordinary contributions to WPI athletics. They have distinguished themselves in both their athletic and professional careers, and their accomplishments make all of us proud to be a part of the WPI tradition. Today, October 1, 2010, six individuals join the honor roll of the WPI Athletic Hall of Fame. Their names will be added to the list of current members.

2009
Kerri Coleman Oldmixon ’03
John Leonie ’87
Larry Penoncello ’66
Jonathan Pires ’00
Garrett Trombi ’95

2008
Al Carpenter ’83
Steve Hall ’87
Nicola McGowan Campbell ’90
Jeff Rosen ’80
Bob Schultz ’55
Toby Wyman ’91

2007
Robert Donle ’75
Christopher S. Dunn ’96
Danielle (Luongo) Fries ’94
Thomas L. Maloney ’61
Gregory R. Tucker ’92

2006
Lance Baden ’99
Stacey (Cotton) Bonasso ’90
Wm. Whitney Griffith
Michael J. Pockoski ’99
Matthew Sartore ’99
Richard J. Testa Jr. ’84

2005
Danielle M. Batey ’97
Brian W. Daly ’91
Kimberley (Gabis) Elbirt ’92
John J. Fitzgibbons ’75
Alan R. King ’76
Missy (Hurley) Marino ’86

2004
Brian C. Learned ’97
Jennifer R. Lovin ’96
Francis J. Oneglia ’42*
Christine (Clancy) McNary ’86
Richard H. Wheeler ’77

2003
David J. Ceppetelli ’93
Kenneth J. Kaufman
Roland P. Marquis Jr. ’85
Susan M. Tarallo ’93
Jason D. Wenig ’97

2002
Albert G. Bellon ’41*
Brian W. Chu ’92
George E. Chu ’95
Kevin M. Doherty ’79
Kimberly A. Landry ’97

2001
Harry W. Brown ’53*
William A. Saimond ’59
Douglas G. Storz ’59
Gregory D. Whitney ’90*
Paul M. Wyman ’85

2000
Joseph J. Alekshun, Jr. ’56
Kimberly Fay Boucher ’86
Frederick D. Rucker ’81
Fred N. Snyder Jr. ’70
Jason A. Wolozy ’94

1999
Kenneth B. Adrian ’65*
David V. Berthiaume ’91
Bruce J. Carbone ’85
Allen H. Hoffman ’63
John A. Roy ’93
Michael P. Shebek ’53

1998
Malcolm R. Chandler ’39*
Thomas M. Kilkenny ’82
Carrie L. Nolet
Daniel T. Pond ’86

1997
Michael V. Bucci ’90
Amaro Goncalves ’85
Jody A. Normanand ’90
E. Michael Shipulski ’88
J. Kevin Sullivan ’69
Edwin A. Taylor 1891*

1996
Maria E. Carvaljal ’88
Susan E. Chapman
David O. Durtenberger ’88
Evan D. Elkington ’89
William R. Nims ’66
Carl F. Simon Jr. ’46*

WPI Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
Presented by WPI and the Poly Club

Homecoming Weekend
October 1, 2010 • 6:30 p.m. • Campus Center Odeum
Kim Landry ’97, Poly Club President

Welcome
Brian Daly ’91

Alma Mater
Performed by SAS

Greetings from the University
Dennis Berkey
WPI President

Introduction of Inductees
Brian Daly

Dinner
Chartwells Food Service

Recognition of Hall of Famers
Chiza Whalen Bubin ’84

Student Athlete Advisory Council
Josh Matte ’11 and Charlotte McDonnell ’11, Co-chairs

Induction Ceremonies
presented by Brian Daly
Ernest Ansah ’96

Great student-athletes have come to WPI from all over the country and the world. The Engineers football program, however, didn’t have to go that far to find an outstanding running back. In fact, Ernie Ansah was living right here in Worcester.

Coming off a strong 1991 season, optimism was high for WPI in 1992. Ansah delivered right off the bat and was named Freedom Football Conference Rookie of the Year and two-time ECAC Rookie of the Week while gaining 680 yards on the ground and scoring five touchdowns. The rookie teamed with fellow Hall of Famer Jason Woolsey to give the Engineers one of the most feared running back combos on the East Coast. WPI swept through the FFC and earned the program’s first-ever bid to the NCAA Championships.

During his sophomore year, Ansah helped the team again run through the Freedom Football Conference with a perfect 5-0 record under new head coach Kevin Morris. He contributed to the WPI record book still has Ansah’s name splashed all over it. His 2,698 yards career rushing yards rank him fourth all-time, while his 138 points, including 22 total touchdowns, are the ninth all-time in program history.

“Ernie’s power and athleticism made him a threat every time he touched the ball,” said Hall of Famer Brian Learned. “He was talented in all facets—he was a powerful runner between the tackles, he could turn the corner with ease, and he was so agile catching out of the backfield. Ernie was a very complete back.”

Ansah concluded his standout career by scampering for 876 yards and five touchdowns during his senior campaign in 1995. He proved his versatility by posting career-high receiving numbers of 27 catches for 154 yards. For the second straight year, Ansah drew first-team FFC honors and was twice tabbed as the circuit’s Player of the Week.

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Etienne graduated from WPI in the spring of 1996 with a degree in mechanical engineering with biomedical interests. His MQP focused on the strength capabilities of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene.

He currently is the Quality Manager of Clinical Business Operations for Waters Corporation in Milford. Ernie and wife, Natalie, live in Plymouth with their children, Keenan and Isabel.

Rachel Zimet Pytel ’02

Several members of the WPI Athletic Hall of Fame enjoyed success in multiple sports at WPI. A select few arguably had a Hall of Fame career in each of their sports. Undoubtedly, one such individual is Rachel Zimet Pytel.

On the basketball court Zimet was a double-double machine. She averaged double digits in both scoring and rebounding during her sophomore and juniors seasons, and narrowly missed the trifecta in her senior campaign by a 10th of a rebound per game.

She garnered All-NEWMAC honors her junior and senior years and was named second team All-New England by D3hoops.com during her senior year of 2001-02. It was that year that Zimet helped the Engineers to a 17-10 record and a berth in the NEWMAC semifinals.

The two-time captain reached the 1,000 point and rebound milestones as she tallied 1,096 points and hauled in 1,009 rebounds. The forward is in the top five in a career rebounds and held the school record for rebounds in a game and in a season. Her shooting percentage improved by at least 4 percent each year, starting with a solid 42.8 percent as a rookie in 1998-99 and ending with an eye-popping 60.2 percent her senior season.

“Zimmie was simply amazing!” noted head coach Cherise Galasso. “Her work ethic and determination inspired her teammates and set a standard of success for the program. On and off the court, she was a role model in every sense of the word.”

Zimet earned Academic All-NEWMAC accolades three times in basketball and twice for volleyball. She took home the Coaches Award as the top WPI freshman in 1998-99 and earned a full fellowship to MIT to earn her doctorate. She graduated from WPI in 2002 with a degree in chemical engineering. In 2007 she received her PhD in materials science and engineering from MIT, then went on to work as a polymer scientist at Dow Chemical Company.

Currently, Rachel and her husband, Chad, live in Boston—she says she spends her days chasing after their two-year-old son, Noah.
A n old basketball adage states that behind every outstanding team, there is a great point guard. For the WPI Women's Basketball teams of the mid-1990s, that point guard was Jennifer Plante.

The Nashua, N.H., native broke into the starting lineup during her freshman campaign, appearing in all 23 games and starting in 14 of them. She averaged just under three assists and totaled 107 points as the Crimson and Gray won nine games and finished as runner-up at both the Worcester City Tournament and the Gordon Tournament.

The following winter, Plante played a big role as the Engineers moved over the .500 mark for the first time in seven years. She dished out 77 assists in 23 outings and swiped 29 steals as WPI posted a 14-11 mark.

"Jen provided leadership and a winning desire," commented former WPI head coach Megan Henry, who recruited Plante and coached her during her first two years on Boynton Hill. "She willed us to be better."

The 1994-95 season saw Christa Champion take the helm of the WPI program and WPI Women's Basketball program. She started all 29 games as the Boynton Hillers took home the NEW-8 regular season title for just the second time and won their first-ever NEW-8 Tournament championship. WPI finished 23-6 and defeated Westfield State in the NCAA Tournament first round before bowing out to perennial national power Southern Maine.

The co-captain averaged 5.9 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 3.1 assists per game while helping her team to an average of 46.4 caroms per contest. Plante was honored at the WPI athletics banquet with the Patricia Graham Award, presented to the senior female student-athlete who displayed the best example of sportsmanship. "Jenny was a true leader and the heart and soul of our team," said Hall of Famer and team mate Kim Landry. "Her unselfish style of play, enthusiasm, and competitive spirit were key to our team's success."

For her career, Plante found it was better to give than to receive as the diminutive point guard totaled 283 career assists to go along with 128 steals. She earned a master's degree in English from Clark University in 2000, where she has been teaching since. Currently, Jen is the director of Clark's Writing Program and Writing Center.

Plante saved her best for last as her senior season of 1995-96 charted new waters for the WPI Women's Basketball program. She started all 29 games as the Boynton Hillers again took home the NEW-8 championship versus Wheaton. The Engineers moved over the .500 mark for the first time in seven years. She doled out 77 assists in 23 outings and swiped 29 steals as WPI posted a 14-11 mark.

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It has been said that the truly great athletes have tremendous success both as individuals and as part of teams. Track and Field’s William Komm certainly adds truth to that belief.

He made his presence felt from day one, placing third on the 1972 team that was 8-3 with a total of 54 dual-meet points. Komm continued to contribute and as a sophomore tallied 41 points, ranking himself second on a squad that finished 9-3. It was that spring that he set his first school record, heaving the javelin 204-11.

“Bill was a sure bet to win the javelin and to place in the hammer throw,” noted Hall of Famer and head coach Mel Norcross. “It was nice knowing that we had points coming to us just by entering him in the events.”

Komm saw his point total rise to 56 during his junior season of 1974. The Engineers continued to enjoy tremendous success both as individuals and as part of teams. They finished an 11-2 mark in dual meets, while he broke his own school record in the javelin with a throw of 210-6.

His senior season of 1975 was a magical year for the Crimson and Gray. WPI recorded its first-ever undefeated, untied track and field record, emerging victorious in all 12 dual meets. Komm amassed 58 points, good enough for a second squad loaded with talent.

With Bill and other greats like Hall of Famers Robert Donle and Alan Briggs, it’s no wonder we had such a great season,” commented Norcross. “We used to call him Silent Bill—he walked quietly, but carried a big stick: the javelin.”

“Bill was a silent leader, who worked very hard and led by example,” said Briggs. “He was an overachiever.”

Komm graduated from WPI in 1975 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and from the University of Connecticut in 1977 with a master’s degree in electrical engineering.

He is currently employed by the Raytheon Company as an electrical engineer. Bill and his wife, Mary Pat, live in Portsmouth, R.I., with their children, Amy and Andrew.

The 1980s saw a great run for men’s basketball under the guidance of head coach Ken Kaufman. A key cog at the beginning of that successful era was Russ Philpot.

A Somerville native and graduate of North Cambridge Catholic, Philpot began playing a key role as a reserve during his freshman season of 1979, averaging 4.8 points and 4.4 rebounds as the Engineers went 9-13.

Sophomore year saw him blossom into a legitimate star. He was named team MVP and a UPI Division III second team All-New England selection after scoring 20.2 points per game an impressive 61 percent shooting from the floor. Philpot had a record-setting season on the boards, tying the school record with 197 rebounds (8.6). His season may have been highlighted by a two-day stretch that saw a 30-point performance in a 56-38 road win at Coast Guard and 29 points and 11 rebounds in a victory over Middlebury.

The winter of 1981-82 was one of uncharted waters for the WPI basketball program. The season started out well with a 88-78 win against archival Clark in the championship of the Worcester Four Home Federal Savings Tipoff Tournament. Philpot registered 26 points, 11 rebounds, and seven assists as the Engineers halted Clark’s streak of 36 straight victories over New England Division III opponents.

The season continued, with key wins over Trinity (on the road) and Williams, helping the Crimson and Gray earn its first-ever NCAA Tournament bid. Pitted in a regional with defending national champion Potsdam State and Clark, the Engineers dropped a heartbreaking 58-57 decision to host Salem State in a game that featured 17 lead changes and 11 ties. Philpot totaled 23 points en route to capping a season averaging 16.6 points and 8.7 rebounds and setting a new season rebounding record.

“Russell was an extremely talented player,” commented Hall of Famer Kaufman. “He improved every single year until he became the player that all our opponents tried to stop. He was such a proficient scorer, we called one of our offenses “Give it Russell.”

Philpot eclipsed the 1,000-point milestone early in his senior year, posting 16 points while defeating Nichols in December of 1982. It was only a sign of things to come—in February he surpassed Rick Wheeler’s all-time school scoring record. Individual marks were not the only new standards set during the 1982-83 campaign as the Engineers as a team won a school-best 15 games.

He ended his career with 1,397 career points. The mechanical engineering major was a two-time ECAC first-team All-New England all-star and a two-time member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District team.

In the professional world, he has amassed a strong track record in industry, including a U.S. Patent, publication in numerous national trade magazines, and recognition in national and international sales. Russ and his wife, Lynne (Ondek ’82), have lived in Sterling the past 20 years, enjoying “small town” life. Their daughters, Sarah and Lindsey, are both in college.