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 rev’rence 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—
Although Rich Testa may have weighed the least, his accomplishments were perhaps the most for his team. Rich was a two-time participant at the NCAA Wrestling championships. He earned the pair of spots at 118 pounds after winning the New England championship as a junior in 1983 and placing second one year later. He also earned another All-New England honor, in 1982, when he placed sixth in the New England championships despite suffering a broken ankle in his first match of the tournament.

"He started every match with a spark," comments Hall of Fame head coach Phil Grebinar. "It was like a baseball manager filling out his lineup with a superstar at the lead-off spot. He gave us the ability to be up by a pin every time he hit the mat."

Rich started his collegiate career by registering wins by pin in four of his five victories. As a sophomore, he went 10-3 with five pins and improved to 11-1 a season later with six pins and a second-best 61 points. As a senior, he went a career-best 18-1 with 11 pins, while collecting a team-high 11 pins and 103 points. In his four years, he went 44-9 in dual meets for an .830 winning percentage.

The Academic All-American is still tied for first at WPI in pins in a season (11 in 1983-84) and dual points in a season (103 in 1983-84). He is all-time second in dual meet pins (26), third in dual meet pin percentage (.491) and fourth in dual meet points (250). He is among the leaders in several other categories, including most pins in under 1:00 (4th with 4) and highest pin percentage (4th with 26 pins in 53 matches for 49.1%).

"Rich was unselfish and a great leader on teams that brought the winning tradition to a new level," says Grebinar. "He was respected and well-liked, not just on the team and in the athletic department, but campus-wide."

A 1980 graduate at Wayland High, Rich Testa was the state champion his senior year and third in New England at 128 pounds as the team captain. He won the Outstanding Wrestler Award of the State Tournament. He also finished fourth in the Massachusetts All-State Meet as a sophomore in high school. He ran the Boston Marathon in 2002, clocking in at just over 4 hours, 7 minutes.

Currently a financial advisor at Jeup and Lamont, Rich has been married to his wife, Donna, for 22 years. The couple has three children—Jaymie (19) and Samantha (14)—and Michael (16), who is following in his father's footsteps, having finished fourth last winter in the Massachusetts All-State wrestling meet as a high school sophomore.
A two-time first team All-American, Matt Surette is one of the most celebrated football players of all time at WPI.

The native of nearby Spencer certainly made his mark on the WPI record book. He holds virtually every receiving record at the university, including career standards in catches (165), receiving yards (2,588), and touchdown receptions (26).

He had arguably the greatest single offensive performance in the 116 years of WPI football when he hauled in an eye-popping 17 catches for 362 yards (both NCAA Division III single-game records) and four touchdowns versus Springfield in 1997. The game highlighted a junior campaign that saw Matt set the Engineers’ single-season records in receptions (75), receiving yards (1,287), and touchdown catches (16).

Following that magical season, the awards poured in for Matt. He was named to the Freedom Football Conference first team, the Worcester Area first team, the Worcester Area Offensive Player of the Year, first team All-New England, first team All-ECAC, first team Don Hansen All-American, first team Hewlett-Packard All-American. He also appeared in Sports Illustrated in the “Faces in the Crowd” section (Dec. 29, 1997). His mark of 75 receptions and 1,287 yards led all tight ends in NCAA Division III.

“Matt was the best offensive end we’ve ever had at WPI,” says Hall of Fame coach and former longtime football assistant Merl Norcross. “He was the guy that kept the offense moving.”

Matt Surette followed his record-setting junior season with a stellar senior campaign in 1998. He was named a preseason All-American by Street & Smith’s, The Sporting News, Preview Sports, the American Football Coaches Association, and Don Hansen’s Football Gazette.

He proved worthy of all the honors as he nabbed 57 passes, tied for second most in school history, while netting 898 receiving yards, fifth-most in a single season at WPI. For his efforts, he was the Freedom Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year, a Worcester Area Football Association first team, an All-New England first team, an AFCA All-American, a second team Hewlett-Packard All-American, and a second team Don Hansen All-American.

Since his graduation, Matt’s been an industrial engineer for UPS, an account manager for Arrow Electronics, and is currently advertising manager for AutoTrader.com. He has played for the semi-pro football team Clinton Irish Blizzard in 2005 and 2006.
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 6, 2006, six individuals join the honor roll of the WPI Athletic Hall of Fame. Their names will be added to the list of current members.

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

2004 Brian C. Learned ’97
Jennifer R. Lovin ’96
Francis J. Ongelia ’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. Wening ’97

2002 Albert G. Bellos ’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. Alekskshun, Jr. ’56
Kimberly Fay Boucher ’86
Frederick D. Rucker ’81
Fred N. Snyder, Jr. ’70
Jason A. Wooley ’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

2000 Missy (Hurley) Marino ’86
Christine (Clancy) McNary ’86
Brian C. Learned ’97
David J. Ceppetelli ’93
Kimberly A. Landry ’97

A seven-time All-American, Mike Pockowski is the most celebrated track athlete in WPI history. He holds four school records: shot put (50 feet, 6 inches), discus (170-3), hammer (197-3) and weight throw (62-1), the most held by any male athlete at WPI.

He began to make his mark regionally and nationally as a sophomore when he placed third in the hammer throw at the NCAA Indoor Championships. The following season, Mike took the hammer title (190-7) at the New England Division III Outdoor Championships. His success at the NCAA Championships continued as he brought home a fourth place finish in the weight throw during the indoor championships and was runner-up in the hammer throw and sixth in the discus at the outdoor championships.

Mike achieved his best performances during his senior campaign. He won three titles at the New England Division III championships, including record-setting performances in the weight throw (62¼) at the Indoors and in the hammer (195-1½) during the Outdoors while also winning the discus (167-10) title. He earned three All-America awards after placing fourth in the weight throw at the Indoors and second in the hammer and sixth in the discus at the Outdoors.

Because of his stellar performances in 1999, WPI finished 22nd in the nation. Based on his achievements, as well as his two NEWMAC championships and All-ECAC performances (hammer champion and fifth place in the discus), Mike was named WPI’s Senior Varsity Club Athlete and NECAC Athlete of the Year.

“Without a doubt, he was the greatest weightman WPI has ever had,” says Hall of Fame coach Merl Norcross.

Mike Pockowski not only did it on the track, he also did it in the classroom. The two-time College Sports Information Directors of America (COSIDA) Academic First-Team All-American (’98 and ’99) was named an ECAC Scholar-Athlete in each of those two seasons.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, he earned an MS in geotechnical engineering the following year from Virginia Tech, attending on a Charles E. Via Fellowship. He currently trains with four-time Olympian and former world record-holder John Powell (discus). He’s been to every U.S. National Track and Field Championship since graduating from WPI and he competed in the last Olympic trials (2004). He has increased his personal best hammer throw over 70 meters since his school-record throw on Boynton Hill. He also competes annually in the Highland Games, where he has been a champion twice and runner-up once. Mike now lives in Las Vegas, where he is a project manager for Kleinfelder.
Quite simply put, Whit Griffith did everything at WPI. At one time or another, he was involved in men’s and women’s programs in all three sports seasons. He was also instrumental in starting three varsity programs for women at the university.

Whit arrived at WPI in 1980 as the swimming and diving coach, a post he held until his retirement in 2002. In 1986, he divided the team into separate men’s and women’s programs. He amassed 111 wins on the men’s side—including six winning seasons in a span of seven years, 1985–1991. He also enjoyed success on the women’s side with 62 wins overall, including a 9-win campaign in 1990–91.

“Whit was my first coach at WPI when I transferred in my sophomore year,” says former celebrated swimmer and current assistant coach Matt Musiak. “I immediately liked him because of his coaching style. I swam incredibly well that year, breaking records and placing first in all my events. I credit Whit for making that possible.”

A look at Whit’s first roster in 1980–81 shows one woman and six men. Under his watchful eye, the programs grew to the point where rosters of 20 became the norm and he established swimming and diving as major varsity programs. Now, even after his retirement, the programs continue to flourish.

Whit’s ability to build programs went beyond the pool. He started the women’s soccer club program and coached it for nine seasons, helping it gain varsity status. He also played an important role in bringing the women’s track and field program to a varsity level after a longtime stint as the club coach.

Whit Griffith also left his mark on the baseball program. He was the assistant coach for two seasons before taking over as skipper in 1987, and he guided the Engineers to 80 wins, including a 12-win campaign in 1995.

Proving that his talents were limitless, Whit served as the assistant athletic trainer in the early 1980s. He was also involved in the men’s soccer program, as a varsity assistant and junior varsity head coach under the tutelage of legendary coaches Alan King and Malcolm MacPherson.

“Whit was invaluable in the transition from Alan to our new staff,” comments MacPherson. “We could not have been successful without his input and efforts. He was one of the hardest working individuals I’ve ever met. His integrity is second to none.”

A member of the Poly Club Executive Committee and the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, Whit still helps out at the annual alumni golf tournament. He and his wife, Anne, have three children (Rebecca ’91, Graham, and Tucker ’95) and two grandchildren.

1993 Richard N. Bazinet ’56*
   Mary A. Donovan ’78
   Patricia Graham Flaherty ’75
   Paul J. Kerrigan ’57
   Jack T. Rushton ’39*
   William F. Shields ’64

1992 James R. Buell ’73
   Michael C. Carbone ’85
   Mark C. Dupuis ’72
   Edward C. Milde ’30*
   Andrew C. Murch ’73

1991 George T. Abadow ’53
   Orville A. Bailey ’85
   Chiara Whalen Bubin ’84
   Phillip R. Delphos ’26*
   Robert Rounds Jr. ’64

1990 James A. Banks (Al Banx)*
   Anne Marie Foreman ’80
   Mark T. McCabe ’79
   Peter J. Sifferlen ’84

1989 Alan K. Briggs ’76
   Donald R. Ferrari ’59
   Edward L. Griffith Jr. ’69
   Terese M. Kwiatkowski ’83
   J. Philip Pierce ’31*
   David J. Wilson ’80

1988 Arthur J. Knight ’07*
   John A. McGrath Jr. ’64
   Fred Pickwick Jr. ’22*
   Leonard Polizotto ’70
   Timothy M. Rooney ’71
   Ralph W. White ’23*

1987 Roy F. Bourgault ’42
   Suzanne Call Margerum ’81
   Richard S. Converse ’28*
   Carmen M. Della Vecchia ’67
   Joseph L. Guidi ’28*
   Alan King
   Harold A. Melden Jr. ’49
   Donald W. Putnam ’32*
   Richard A. Zeleny ’53*

1986 William W. Asp ’32*
   Peter H. Horstmann ’55
   Cary A. Palulis ’68
   Merl Notcross
   Michael D. Walker ’78

1985 Percy “Doc” Carpenter*
   Fred DiPippo ’60
   Richard E. Ferrari ’51
   John J. Korzick ’68
   Charles F. Schmit ’46*
   Elmer T. Scott ’41*

1984 Ivan “Pete” Bigler*
   Earl Bloom ’55
   William Graham ’31*
   Donald G. Lutz ’67
   David McElwan ’39
   Morgan R. Rees ’61

1983 Thomas W. Berry ’24*
   Edward F. Cannon ’68
   Harry L. Dalmun 1891
   Raymond J. Forkey ’40
   Charles R. McNulty*
   Henry W. Nowick ’56
   Robert W. Pritchard*
   Albert J. Raslavsky*

*Deceased
Lance Baden '99

Four-time All-New England wrestler Lance Baden was a champion at two different weight classes—as a sophomore in the 177-pound class, and as a senior at 184 pounds. In his junior year, he was second at 184, and fourth at 167 as a freshman.

The two-time captain drew national attention in January 1998 when he was ranked number one in the country at 184 pounds after pinning the previous top-ranked wrestler from the College of New Jersey in a meet at Harrington Auditorium.

“Lance was one of the most knowledgeable wrestlers to come through WPI in terms of knowing the most about his opponent and the upcoming match,” says Hall of Fame coach Phil Grebinar. “He was among the most humble guys in the history of the program. On the outside, it seems that accomplishments were not important, but I know that on the inside, he had a drive to reach the highest goal possible.”

Having won a state title as a high school junior, Lance started his WPI career strong by posting a 7-3 record with a freshman. The next year was his breakout year—he went 12-4 with nine pins as a sophomore, and followed that up by going 13-3 (10 pins) and 14-1 (three pins) as a junior and senior, respectively. He compiled a 46-11 overall career dual meet record for an .807 winning percentage.

A major part of the WPI record books, he's fourth in pins in one season (10), fifth in career pins (23), seventh in individual team points in a career (233), eighth in dual wins (46), eighth in pin percentage in one season (.625), and ninth in career pin percentage (.404). He’s also third in consecutive pins in one season (5), and fourth in pins under one minute in a career (4).

“Lance is one of the most loyal wrestlers,” says Grebinar, “not only to myself and the program, but also to his alma mater.” He recently completed a six-year stint as an assistant coach—five under the tutelage of Grebinar and last season with Sean Nelligan.

Lance Baden didn’t just succeed on the mat. In terms of academics, he was majoring in Business Administration, and he also served as secretary for the Student Government Association and was a member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity. Now working as a project manager at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc., he stays involved in wrestling by refereeing at the college and high school levels.

Stacey (Cotton) Bonasso '90

Stacey Cotton was a key contributor during the “Golden Years” of the WPI volleyball program. Under the guidance of legendary coach Nancy Vaskas, the team made frequent appearances in the MAIAW Tournament, and also performed well at the Worcester City and NEW-8 championships.

During Stacey’s sophomore season, WPI won an eye-popping 27-9, reaching the finals of the Worcester City Tournament for the second consecutive season. But she was at her best, perhaps, during the WPI Invitational. She earned All-Tournament accolades as a top-ranked WPI player.

The following season, the Engineers continued their winning ways, as Stacey led the way. The team finished the season 22-14, with second-place finishes at the City and MAIAW tournaments.

It was during her junior season that she received her first of two national academic awards; she earned third team College Sports Information Directors of America (COSIDA) in 1988 and was selected to the first team in 1989. In both seasons, she garnered first team regional academic honors.

Stacey's senior season brought several personal and team highlights. WPI won 16 games that year, including a win over Division I opponent Niagara, and an appearance in the MAIAW championship match. As throughout her career, she did a little bit of everything, amassing 122 kills, 222 assists, 46 digs, and 44 aces. A team captain, she was chosen for the New England Women’s Volleyball Association Senior Classic Team. She's still in the Top 10 in four categories: third all-time in assists (933), fifth in kills (499) and blocks (163), and seventh in aces (153).

“Stacey had the skills, and she had the knowledge,” Vaskas says. “She was a leader—she had drive and determination. She has so many positive qualities, but the thing that put her well above the rest was her natural and exceptional athletic ability. There’s been no other volleyball player before, during, or after her time who’s had that total package. She might very well be the best all-around volleyball athlete ever to wear a WPI uniform.”

Stacey also was a four-year member of the women’s basketball team at WPI, and, as a freshman, contributed to the Engineers’ run to the ECAC New England championship. She received an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, which she used to attend Stanford.

She was active in the Air Force ROTC during her time on Boynton Hill. Her professional career has spanned more than 15 years in the Air Force, where she has served as a T-38 and F-16 instructor and pilot. Currently, Major Stacey (Cotton) Bonasso is stationed at Vance Air Force base; she and her family live in Enid, Oklahoma.