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Honoring Members of Fire Safety Advisory Board

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Charles S. Morgan (C), retiring member of the Firesafety Advisory Board, receiving the Herrick A. Drake Award from Firesafety Center Director David A. Lucht (L) and President Jon C. Strauss.

### RING MEMBERS OF ORY BOARD

Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1936.

A resident of Concord, MA, he is vice president of the Concord Antiquarian Museum and a trustee of the Riverview School in Sandwich, MA, as well as a member of the Board of Governors of the Maine Maritime Museum, the Visiting Committee of the Peabody Museum, and the Editorial Advisory Board of *The American Neptune*, a publication of the Peabody Museum.

**Duane D. Pearsall**, general partner of Columbine Venture Fund, Ltd. Born in Pontiac, MI, Pearsall attended the General Motors Institute, leaving in 1942 to serve as a pilot in the U.S. Navy. He then graduated from the University of Denver and went to work for Honeywell, Inc.

He left Honeywell in 1955 to found Pearsall Company. In 1963, he founded Statrilot Corporation in Lakewood, CO. While he and other Statrilot engineers were working on a device to control static in darkrooms, they discovered the principle that would ultimately make low-cost home smoke detectors practical.

Statrilot introduced the first battery-powered home smoke detector in 1970, revolutionizing fire detection in small residential buildings.

An accomplished businessman himself—he was named national Small Business Person of the Year—he founded the Small Business Development Corporation in 1978 to work as an advocate for small businesses. In 1980, he received the Society of Fire Protection Engineers' "Fire Protection Man of the Year" award in recognition of his pioneering work. (For a profile, see the August 1986 issue of the *WPI Journal*.)

Morgan and Pearsall, both charter members of the WPI Firesafety Board, retired from their posts after two consecutive terms. The Board was created in 1981 to serve as a source of information, advice and counsel to the fire protection engineering program.

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