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PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER



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SPRING 2022

A WPI Family of Entrepreneurs and Inventors



Ken Kolkebeck graduated from WPI in 1972 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. WPI and especially Bill Grogan, who served as Ken's advisor, influenced his life greatly. Both taught him how to think critically to solve complex problems and underscored the value of lifelong learning.

After graduation followed by a few months of surfing in sunny California, he landed his first professional job working at Johnson Controls and was introduced to what became a lifelong career in controls and automation. After working for several companies Ken cofounded Tek-Air Systems in 1984, a

manufacturer of equipment for monitoring airflows in HVAC systems, serving as President for 14 years. In 2010 Ken cofounded FirstFuel Software and retired in 2016.

Ken grew up surrounded by the aura of his extraordinary grandfather, Selden T. Williams. S.T., as he was affectionately known, graduated from WPI with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1916. He was an entrepreneur and inventor credited with a total of 98 patents, including the tire valve and tire gauge, two items that are used by millions of people every day. In addition, he was awarded the patent for the "Talking Machine

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April 11, 1939.

S. T. WILLIAMS
TIRE VALVE
Filed May 15, 1937

2,154,255

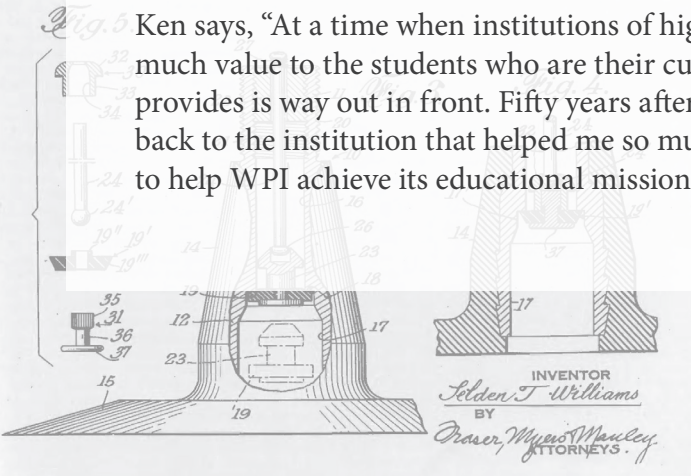
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or Phonographic Mechanism”, what we know as the record player. The original prototype is housed in the Smithsonian. S.T. was awarded the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award in 1963.

Following his grandfather’s footsteps, Ken was granted a patent in 1987 for an apparatus that measures airflow in ducts utilizing the technique of vortex shedding. This was the first of three patents, all which were commercialized.

The Kolkebeck legacy at WPI doesn’t stop with Ken. His son Scott ’00 graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and his son Keith, although not a WPI graduate is an engineer as well. Both of his sons have careers in automation.

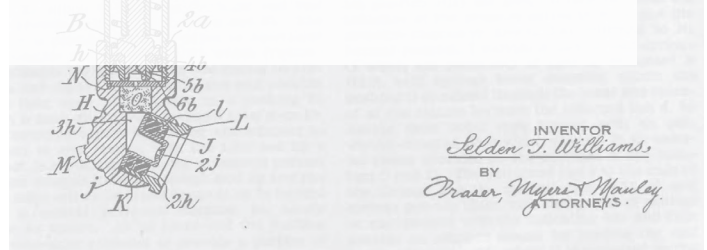
Ken says, “At a time when institutions of higher education do not seem to be delivering much value to the students who are their customers, I think the kind of education WPI provides is way out in front. Fifty years after graduation I find myself in a position to give back to the institution that helped me so much, and so I am happy to give in this small way to help WPI achieve its educational mission.”



Aug. 4, 1936.

S. T. WILLIAMS
PRESSURE GAUGE
Original Filed Aug. 30, 1933

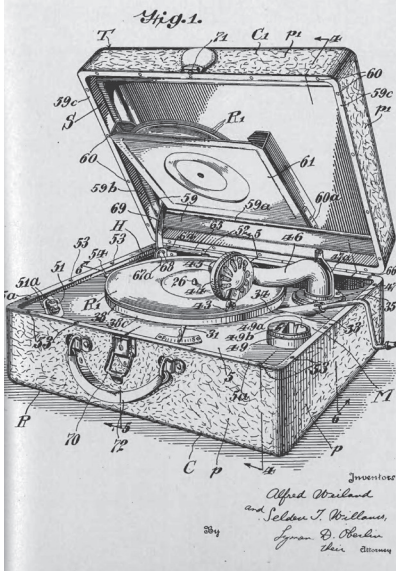
2,049,532



April 10, 1934.

S. T. WILLIAMS ET AL
TALKING MACHINE OR PHONOGRAPH MECHANISM
Filed Feb. 28, 1929 6 Sheets-Sheet 1

1,954,162



Why Giving Is Good for Your Health

To whom or what do you attribute your most gratifying life experiences? Is it a neighborhood or community organization, your school, a favorite teacher, or your place of worship? Whatever it is that evokes gratefulness in your heart, do you pay it forward?

We do not need a doctor to tell us that giving back feels good. Anyone who has given time, money, or other resources knows this from experience. But did you know that the warm, content feeling you get from helping others is good for you?

Not only does giving back increase happiness and enhance emotional well-being, but the benefits can also extend to your physical health such as lowered blood pressure, alleviated depression, decreased stress levels and an overall happier and satisfied outlook on life. Simply put, giving makes us feel better.

Researchers have found that an attitude of gratitude, complimented by giving back lowers the stimulation in the parts of the brain that produce negative emotions. The result, a reduction in anxiety, phobias, and post-traumatic stress disorders. These underlying stress related issues can function as a catalyst for physical health problems as well, such as high blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes. Giving back has been shown to reduce some of the underlying factors associated with these physical issues.

Scientific evidence also shows that the emotions and feelings associated with giving back increase the production of serotonin, dopamine, and oxytocin, which give us that “warm glow.” These hormones are associated with tranquility, serenity, and peace of mind, all of which help reduce depression, which is linked to physical conditions like heart disease.

Being philanthropic whether with your time, your skills, or your financial resources does more than simply make you feel good, it can decrease mortality. Research shows that having a sense of



purpose is linked to lower mortality among older adults. This can take many forms, from being an active volunteer, offering professional services for free, connecting with activities in the community or providing financial support for the work of your favorite organizations. Being part of something bigger than ourselves might be one of the best things we can do, both for ourselves and others.

We know that so many of you are already giving most generously to the organizations you care about, including WPI and you experience the health and well-being benefits first-hand. It's good to be reminded that when you give to WPI, you are supporting our mission to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges and to revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research.

So do yourself a favor decrease your stress, increase your serotonin, and live longer by giving back to those organizations that have positively impacted your life, including WPI!

A: www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167876006001917

B: www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/brain-imaging-reveals-joys-giving

C: [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)61489-0/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)61489-0/fulltext)

This article is not meant to be used as medical or financial advice. For health concerns and questions always talk to your medical professional and seek the counsel of your advisors before making financial decisions.



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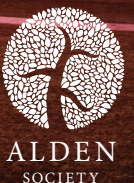
GIFT OF FOREIGN STOCK

Recently, I participated in the Beyond These Towers campaign by establishing an endowed scholarship at WPI for students with financial need. I would not have been as successful in my career without the education that I received from WPI, and I would like for other students to have that same opportunity. I was able to transfer foreign stock that had been issued to me as part of an employee incentive program directly to WPI and avoid capital gains tax and get a deduction for the fair market value. Although the process required a bit of extra research due to the stock being traded on foreign stock exchange, WPI's planned giving office helped me to navigate the process. Most importantly, I was able to support my alma mater in a very personal and meaningful way, knowing that my gift will open doors, in perpetuity, for the next generation of engineers and scientists.

— Jim Wilkinson '91

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A WPI FAMILY OF ENTREPRENEURS AND INVENTORS | WHY GIVING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH