

# WPI Trivia

(answers are on the back)

**1. WPI HISTORY AND TRADITIONS:** Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. There are 13 mathematical expressions in WPI's school cheer.
- B. In a famous WPI prank, students led a horse up the staircase to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Boynton Hall and lowered it through a window to the ground below.
- C. The height of the fountain in Reunion Plaza is controlled by a thermocouple mounted to the side of Olin Hall.
- D. There is a superstition among students that stepping on the WPI seal at the center of the Quad's Centennial Walkway will prevent them graduating within 4 years.
- E. Aspects of Georgia Tech were directly modeled after WPI in the late 1800s, and two leading WPI faculty members were recruited to move there but declined.

**2. WORCESTER FIRSTS:** Which of the following can NOT be boasted by Worcester?

- A. Host of the first national womens' rights convention in 1850
- B. Home of the first public park in the U.S.
- C. Place where the classic yellow smiley face was designed and disseminated
- D. Location of the research facility that invented the birth control pill
- E. Origin of the pink lawn flamingo

**3. FAMOUS WPI ALUMNI:** Which of the following people is NOT a WPI graduate?

- A. Robert Goddard, the inventor of modern rocketry
- B. Atwater Kent, leading manufacturer of radios in the late 1920s
- C. John W. Geils of the J. Geils Band (popular in the 70s and 80s)
- D. Bob Stempel, inventor of the catalytic converter and former Chair and CEO of General Motors
- E. Nancy Pimental, writer for the Comedy Central show South Park

**4. WPI FOUNDERS:** Which of the following people is NOT one of the original founders of WPI?

- A. John Boynton
- B. George Ira Alden
- C. Ichabod Washburn
- D. Stephen Salisbury II
- E. Seth Sweetser

**5. THE WPI CAMPUS:** Which famous castle was Higgins House designed after?

- A. Compton Wynyates
- B. Windsor Castle
- C. Edinburgh Castle
- D. Blarney Castle
- E. Bran Castle

## ANSWERS

1. **C.** The height of the fountain is controlled not by a temperature sensor, but by an **anemometer** (wind speed sensor) mounted on Olin Hall.
  
2. **D.** “The pill” was developed at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, which was (is) actually located in neighboring Shrewsbury.  
**E.** Controversial or unclear. Pink lawn flamingos were first manufactured by Union Products in Leominster (just north of Worcester), but some claim the first *display* was in Worcester.
  
3. **C.** John Geils attended WPI but never graduated.
  
4. **B.** George Ira Alden was one of the first professors at WPI, but was not one of the founders of WPI.
  
5. **A.** Higgins House was designed after Compton Wynyates, the famous country house located in Warwickshire, England