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 3rd 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 women’s 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.