

[FACULTY *snapshot*]

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1 Photo of my professor, mentor, and friend, Professor Bob "Daddy Wags" Wagner, the person who inspired me to stay in chemical engineering at WPI back in the 1970s. There are many stories, but among my favorites: Bob would find out when our birthdays were and sing to us in class. We returned the favor on his 60th birthday, at 2am on a Sunday morning in July, belting out Happy Birthday to him on his front lawn. (There might have been fireworks and adult beverages involved.)

2 Outstanding Teaching Award, April 2017. I was completely blown away!

3 "Bullshit grinder" that my Dad made. I was a first-generation college student, the son of a carpenter. My folks were really supportive of my education.

4 Tower packings. I spent most of my career working in the environmental field ... I got my start as a fresh engineer, charged with redesigning and building/installing an air pollution control system at my first employer, Cabot Corp. It was a tricky problem, but the WPI projects really set me up for solving it. These tower packings went into that project.

5 Goodbye clock. In the 1990s, I joined what was a startup environmental firm, ultimately helping build it to a national firm, providing chemical and environmental design engineering services around the country. I got this clock when I left.

6 Minions. I made the mistake of referring to my first MQP groups (after starting as a prof) as my "minions." They returned the favor by getting me these toys—including a GRU for me.

7 ChemE Car. I advise the WPI chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; this was the chemically powered car that competed in the 2017 competition. We didn't win, but it was cool!

8 Boxes of data. A local, retired chemical engineer has contracted Alzheimer's and his family wants to preserve his legacy. As part of that, the students of WPI are cataloging his life's works, which we will archive and make available.

9 Me on a camel. My daughter did a semester abroad in Cairo back in the summer of 2010 and we visited her. For some reason, this pic gets a lot of comments!

10 Hardhat from Dow. Prior to coming back to WPI as faculty, I was responsible for all environmental, health, safety, chemical process safety, security, and emergency response at Dow's NorthEast facilities.

11 Vials of Ferric Molybdate Catalysts. I did my PhD at WPI with Professor Ed Ma, studying the deactivation of catalysts in exothermic reactions. Cabot graciously supported the studies.



PHOTO: MATHEW HEALEY