



# WSPAA QUARTERLY



Volume 16  
June 2015

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY: SCOTT LINDEMANN**



Welcome to the mid-year mark of 2015. Can you believe it is the end of June already? In many ways it has been a very busy and unsettling year to date.

On March 24, the Division lost Trooper Trevor Casper while on-duty attempting to make the arrest of a suspect for a bank robbery and murder. On May 18, the WSPAA lost President Tim Heffernan suddenly. A loss felt by many across the law enforcement community due to Tim's contributions for several decades in Wisconsin. The loss continues as we have lost no less than 10 current and past members of the law enforcement community so far in 2015.

The Division of State Patrol has taken a step forward to remember those who have "Died in the Line of Duty" as they held a grave side wreath ceremony for each officer. During the last week of May, a short ceremony was held at each of these grave sites around the State. It is anticipated to be a ceremony repeated each year. While attendance was small this year, it is expected to grow over the years to come. We must never forget.

As you read through this Newsletter, you will find the agenda for the Annual Alumni Luncheon. As in past years, this is planned for the Academy in September. The date is September 11, 2015. Mark your calendar. The agenda is attached. The registration form is expected soon and will be distributed.

As in the past few years, the WSPAA will hold the Association Annual Business Meeting following the Alumni gathering. Officers reports will be given. The election of the Vice-President and Treasurer for 2016, will be held. An election panel has been named to seek and develop a recommendation for new officers. That panel includes Mike Jennings, Mary Sander, and Gary Brogan. If you have an interest in running for either office, a regional representative position OR know of someone who may have an interest to become an officer—please pass that information on to Mike Jennings at: [mikeandjudy@mhtc.net](mailto:mikeandjudy@mhtc.net). The WSPAA is your organization. Without your participation we will not progress. More information about the Annual Meeting will be coming soon.

One of the issues the WSPAA has heard from the Division and the membership is in regard to the re-qualification requirement for retired officers to carry a concealed weapon under HR 218. The WI Dept. of Justice Training and Standards Board has adopted a "Uniform" standard for everyone authorized to carry in WI. This means a retiree is required to meet the same standard as a rookie or active duty officer. Many feel this is unreasonable.

A retiree has no arrest authority. They are not going to be trying to apprehend a suspect. The retiree is not going to run after a suspect. The retiree will probably not be going prone to shoot. At most, the retiree will be using the weapon in self defense. The retiree will probably not be carrying 2-3 extra magazines like an on-duty officer. The theory of "Be a Good Witness" that we have all heard throughout our career, is still really good advice.

There seems to be little or no argument for annual re-qualification by retirees, like we have always done while on duty. Even though the citizen obtaining a CCW permits has no qualification requirement under DOJ rules.

The WSPAA Board of Directors continues to discuss this issue. Several WSPAA members have years of experience as an officer and also as a firearms instructor. They have completed extensive research on the Federal and State laws of this topic. The question is what is the best approach.

The WSPAA By-Laws clearly state the organization is a non-political organization. What does that exactly mean? Does that mean the WSPAA cannot provide an opinion to the T&S Board? Does it mean the WSPAA cannot provide technical advice? Does it mean the WSPAA cannot get involved in a “lobbying” situation?

First, it does not mean that you or any individual should refrain from letting your opinion be known to the DOJ T&S Board, law enforcement agencies or your legislators. Of course, you should send a copy of anything you send to the State Patrol so they are informed and know what the alumni are promoting.

Next, it does not mean this “non-political” association cannot express their views and express facts to the DOJ T&S Board. It has been suggested the WSPAA Board offer to have a member on the DOJ T&S Board. Our members have years of training and experience. A good resource to be utilized.

Where the WSPAA Board goes with this issue remains to be seen. Almost all retirees who have annually re-qualified have done so for this year. Although a recertification session will be held at the close of the Annual Alumni Luncheon gathering. (Be sure to register for this class if you plan to attend).

Note—though there have been discussion about the “Uniform” standard, there has been limited problem in successfully completing the course to the new standard.

Stay tuned for developments in this area.

WSPAA Membership— The membership of the WSPAA has grown to just under 300 members. We hope the membership will continue to grow. We have been very dedicated to keeping the dues low (\$15/year) by keeping the operating expenses down. Almost all correspondence is handled by email. Any questions about membership should be sent to our Membership Coordinator Mary Sander at: [mamabear6615@gmail.com](mailto:mamabear6615@gmail.com)

One of the items on the WSPAA Annual Meeting agenda will be to look at changing the By-Laws in a few places to help change the process necessary for elections and By-Law changes. Changes now require a 1st class mailing. Proposed changes may change that and save money. Another change in By-Laws may be to create a Lifetime Membership Category. More on these items when the Annual Meeting agenda is distributed.

The WSPAA is hosting a summer outing in the Green Bay area on August 3-5, 2015. Everyone is invited to attend. Lodging has been arranged at the Tundra Lodge near Lambeau Field. A very nice facility with indoor waterpark. David Catalano and Ruth Ferg have been making these arrangements. More details can be found in the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter or by contacting David at: [WSP305@aol.com](mailto:WSP305@aol.com) This should be a good event for those who can attend.

I thank everyone who has become a member, an officer, a Regional Representative or in anyway helped to make the WSPAA successful. To have an organization is one thing. To have an active organization is another. We have had our growing pains and set backs. We continue to grow. Thank you to everyone who makes that growth possible.

We always have possible projects, events, research or some other project we can use help with. If you want to get involved, please contact me ([sgklindemann@charter.net](mailto:sgklindemann@charter.net)) or any of the Board Members to express that desire. We will work with you to find a suitable project.

My email box is always open. Feel free to drop me a note, comment or suggestion. Thank you for allowing me to guide this organization. I look forward to our next year together.

## **NEW COLONEL ANNOUNCED FOR WI STATE PATROL**

Brian Rahn joined the Wisconsin State Patrol (40th Recruit Class) in 1990 after serving with the Department of Corrections for 4 years. Brian began his career assigned as a Trooper in Jackson County. He later worked as a Trooper in Washington and Dodge Counties. Brian was promoted to Sergeant, August, 1998, and assigned to Dodge County. From June of 2003 through December of 2006, Brian took a leave of absence from the State Patrol to serve as Sheriff for the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Brian returned to the State Patrol in January of 2007. Brian was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the Statewide Traffic Operations Center in Milwaukee where he served until being promoted to Captain in 2010 and served as the Region Commander of the Northeast Region, Fond du Lac Post. Effective July, 2011, Brian was promoted to Major and served as the Director for the Bureau of Public Security and Communications and later served as the Director for the Bureau of Field Operations in Madison. Effective July, 2014, Brian was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and May, 2015, he was appointed to the rank of Colonel. He also serves as Deputy Superintendent for the Division at Central Headquarters in Madison. Brian is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy as a member of the 242 Session.



Col. Brian Rahn  
(608) 709-0053  
[brian.rahn@dot.wi.gov](mailto:brian.rahn@dot.wi.gov)

## **STATEWIDE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS CENTER (STOC)**

**By Captain Tim Huibregtse**

A multitude of traffic scenarios – congestion, crashes, weather impacts - plagues the lives of Wisconsin commuters on a daily basis, but with the help of the Statewide Traffic Operations Center (STOC) in Milwaukee, Wis., travelers are able to move more smoothly and efficiently on their way to the office, the State Capitol or a Packer game.

The STOC is a key unit of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Bureau of Traffic Operations (BTO) and is integral to safe and efficient travel throughout Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. The facility, which is based out of the Milwaukee Intermodal Station, provides real-time data on road conditions, hazards and route alternatives to law enforcement, first responders, and the general public.

The facility utilizes nearly 400 closed-circuit television cameras to monitor traffic operations across the entire state and helps reduce traffic congestion through notifications of travel times and closures using over 130 dynamic message signs, the 511 Website, Highway Advisory Radio, and media partnerships. The STOC is also ready to implement Emergency Transportation Operations for large-scale situations and incidents that range from severe weather to security threats.

The Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by Bureau of Traffic Operations employees and contracted consultants whose expertise include engineering, information technology, communication, performance management, and administrative support. The facility and staff are funded by state funds and project-specific federal grants. The effectiveness of the organization has helped reduce economic impacts that are associated with congestion and traffic crashes, which total over 2.5 billion dollars annually in the Milwaukee area based upon a 2011 AAA study.

The STOC works closely with a wide variety of organizations that include the Wisconsin State Patrol, Department of Justice, and the State Emergency Operations Center. With the help of these organizations, the Department of Transportation keeps our motoring public safe on their daily commute. The Wisconsin State Patrol and the Bureau of Traffic Operations work closely on the Wisconsin Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Coalition, which helps improve responder safety, enhance the safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents, and supports prompt, reliable, and interoperable communications.

In 2007 the State Patrol assigned a Sergeant full time to the STOC in a liaison role to help communicate with our law enforcement agencies regarding traffic incident management. One of the goals was to have more LE agencies call the STOC when they had crashes blocking lanes of traffic and causing traffic delays. That information is then shared with the public. All of the public radio traffic reports and TV news video use the information distributed by the STOC for their reports. Another part of his duties was to coordinate the work zone mitigation contracts for the Patrol.



## STOC (Continued)

Over time the duties of the personnel assigned to the STOC have increased and more people were added to the chain of command. Currently there is a Captain and Lieutenant assigned to the STOC full time. They manage a number of statewide units and programs as well as still serving the liaison role with the STOC staff. This includes the Technical Reconstruction Unit (TRU), Air Support Unit (ASU), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), K9 unit, Honor Guard Program, and Evidence Program. They are also involved with the Domestic Highway Enforcement program and serve as the liaison with the Law Enforcement Dispatchers and their supervisors.

The number of staff assigned to those units include: one Captain, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, one Motor Carrier Inspector (TRU) and 22 Troopers (8 assigned to K9, 12 TRU and one at HIDTA). They are all part of the Bureau of Public Security and Communications which is under the direction of a Major assigned to Hill Farms. There are currently 6 active pilots and one additional Trooper is in the process of being trained from the last recruit class. The Honor Guard currently has 15 members and is also in the process of training two new people. The ASU and Honor Guard are not full time assignments but do require a lot of hours for training and details.



A couple views inside the STOC, Milwaukee



Early "Vintage" Scale



Col. L.E.Beier

## WSPAA SUMMER OUTING— GREEN BAY AREA



Participants from the 2014 Summer Outing in Superior

### 2015 WSPAA SUMMER OUTING

**AUGUST 3 - 5, 2015**

#### GREEN BAY, WI AREA

**Events: Visits to the Bay Beach Amusement Park, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Neville Public Museum, NEW Zoo and Lambeau Field!**

**Lodging available at a special rate of \$85 per night at:**

**Tundra Lodge**

**865 Lombardi Ave.**

**Green Bay, WI 54304**

**(920) 405-8700**



**2015 WSPAA  
SUMMER OUTING IN  
GREEN BAY**

**AUGUST 3-5, 2015**

**ROOMS AVAILABLE  
AT REDUCED RATE AT  
THE TUNDRA LODGE**

**TUNDRA LODGE  
WATERPARK PASSES  
INCLUDED WITH THE ROOM**

**COME VISIT WITH  
OTHER RETIREES**

**WISCONSIN STATE PATROL ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**

**EVENT CONTACT:**

**DAVID CATALANO, NE REGIONAL  
REP.**

**(920) 362-5305**

**WSP305@aol.com**

# “ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN WOLFE

By Bruce Bishop

PCO, Trooper, Inspector, Sergeant Ron ( John) Wolfe was born in Springbrook, Wisconsin, in 1948. He moved to Brookfield in 1956 and then Gillett where he graduated from high school in 1966. He worked as a longshoreman for a couple years till enlisting in the Navy in 1968. John served during the Vietnam War as a Signalman where he learned shipboard communication, aboard ships on both U.S. coasts, Antarctica, Iceland and New Zealand, where he met his wife to be, Suzanne Tones. They were married in Christchurch , NZ in 1973. Their forty two year marriage spawned two children, five grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

Following attendance at UW Green Bay and using his Navy communication skills, John began his State Patrol career as a PCO in District 2 Waukesha in April of 1977. Six months later found him moving to Wausau where Capt. Klug encouraged him to attend the Academy. He graduated in the 27th Recruit Class in October, 1978. He was to serve as a Trooper (WSP 861) and an Inspector (WSP 1540). He was assigned to Taylor County in District 8, where he remained for only 2 years until resigning to take a position with the National Science Foundation back in Antarctica which ultimately resulted in his assignment to a research vessel (R/V HERO) and smack dab in the middle of the Falkland War, performing search missions in the Pacific looking for downed airmen of both the British and Argentine Air Forces

John returned to the U.S. in 1983 with a vow to settle down and get career serious about the Patrol. His application for reinstatement was accepted and he returned to duty in District 6 as an Inspector at the Chippewa Scale. Six months later began a game of musical chairs with reinstatement to Trooper, promotions to Inspector Supervisor, shuttling between Inspector and Trooper Supervisor; and the relocation moves involved in all of them plus car, equipment, uniform, call signs, etc. All of which looked like it might come to an end in 1988 with a promotion to Sergeant in District 3 and settling in Green Bay. Actually it all fired up again in 1994 when he switched back to Inspector Sergeant. He retired in 2001 with 25 cumulative years of WSP service.

John has been retired fourteen years and has been busy every moment of it. He is an avid motorcyclist and as a past Vice Commander of the Wisconsin Department of the American Legion, organized the State Legacy ride the past two years. He has participated in the National ride six of the past nine years. Add to this that he is Grand Exalted Ruler of Green Bay Elks Lodge 259 and for the past 27 years has sung baritone in the Green Bay Baylander Barber Shop Chorus and currently serves as Treasurer. John has been an amateur Radio Operator nearly all his life and is Treasurer of the Green Bay Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club.

So if you want some first hand accounts of the little known Falklands War or want to learn what it's like to play musical chairs in the State Patrol, stop by and visit with John and Suzanne at.

1550 E Mason St. in Green Bay

Ph 920 606-4692 Email [wolfe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wolfe@sbcglobal.net)



Cadet Wolfe being inspected by Richard Kildahl, 1978, 27th Recruit Class



RETIRED Ron “John” Wolfe taken about June 1, 2015



# BUDGET IMPLICATIONS FOR WI RETIREES

**By Dennis Hughes**

As noted in a previous WSPAA Newsletter, included in the Governor's 2015-17 biennial budget bill were a few provisions of interest to WRS annuitants. Most notable among these was a direction to the Group Insurance Board to find ways to achieve significant savings in the cost of the State health insurance program over the next two years.

In mid-May, the GIB approved recommendations from their annual "study group" (comprised of ETF staff and reps from other State agencies and two Wisconsin health plan associations) regarding changes to the State group health insurance program to take effect in 2016. These recommendations reflected many of the suggestions made by The Segal Group (the current ETF health benefits consultant) on ways to lower employer costs for providing group health insurance.

A few of the more significant changes for 2016 that will affect active duty State employees and non-Medicare retirees covered by the Standard Plan or by an HMO plan include:

Annual Deductible – Increases from ZERO today to \$250 for single coverage (\$500 for family coverage) in 2016

Annual Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limit – Doubles from \$500 single (\$1,000 family) today to \$1,000 single (\$2,000 family)

Office Visit Co-Pays – Change from 10% per visit today to \$15 per visit when you see a primary care physician and to \$25 when you see a specialist

Therapy Co-Pays – Change from 10% per visit today to \$15 per visit when you see chiropractor or physical/speech/occupational therapist

The GIB also approved other employer cost-saving changes that defy simple explanation. These will affect pharmacy benefits, the opt-out incentive for active duty employees, and the High Deductible Plan/Health Savings Account option. Here is the link to the 12-page ETF memo to the GIB with details on all recommended changes for 2016:

<http://etf.wi.gov/boards/agenda-items-2015/gib0519/item3c.pdf>

As they say on TV: "But wait, there's more!" Another round of changes will be decided by GIB next Spring with the goal of finding even more employer cost savings during 2017. The Segal Group will present another set of recommendations to ETF later this year, which may include a transition to a self-insurance model, as well as more increases in deductibles, out-of-pocket limits, co-pays, and who knows what else. So, stay tuned.

You are probably wondering why the Governor, the Joint Finance Committee, and the GIB are all working to increase the employee share of the cost of health insurance. There are two reasons. The first is obvious: To lower the cost of doing business during a time when State revenue collections are not doing very well.

The second reason is more complicated: To minimize future tax impacts of the federal Affordable Care Act. The hope is that "modest" changes over the next two years to control the total dollar value of the State health benefits plan will minimize the impact of the ACA's 40% excise tax. This is the so-called "Cadillac Tax" that, starting in 2018, will be imposed on all employer-provided "high cost" health care plans. The 40% tax will apply to every dollar above the total health plan cost of \$10,200/year for individuals and \$27,500 for family coverage. This is a really complicated and poorly understood issue. Plus, the ACA might be changed before 2018. Here is a link for more information:

<http://www.cigna.com/assets/docs/about-cigna/informed-on-reform/cadillac-tax-fact-sheet.pdf>

ETF has posted a "Frequently Asked Questions" page with answers to basic questions about changes coming in 2016 to the Group Health Insurance Program. The link is: [http://etf.wi.gov/faq/health\\_ins\\_2016.htm](http://etf.wi.gov/faq/health_ins_2016.htm)

## **Don't forget your constant resources for retirement, health insurance and social security information:**

WI Employee Trust Funds— <http://www.etf.wi.gov/>

States Social Security Administration - <http://www.ssa.gov/>



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## ALUMNI LUNCHEON EVENT

September 11, 2015

### AGENDA

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Meet and Greet</i> ~ Informal Coffee and Conversation Among Retirees	
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Board of Directors	
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch/Networking	All
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Welcome/Opening Comments	Academy Staff
	Division Update	Superintendent Fitzgerald/Col. Rahn
	Open Discussion/Q&A	All
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Wisconsin State Patrol Alumni Association (WSPAA) All	
	General Membership Meeting	
	Vote on proposed By- Law Changes	
3:00 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned	
	Continued fellowship on your own	
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Retired Law Enforcement	By Prior Registration Only
	Officer CCW Qualification	

**REMEMBER:** Fort McCoy Guards will inspect identification of each vehicle occupant at the Main Gate:

*No admission will be granted without compliance.*

**2016 ALUMNI DAY**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 (Second Friday again?)**



## EVENTS—Regularly Scheduled Gatherings:

**Second Monday of the Month**– Aurora Hospital Cafeteria, 2845 Greenbrier Rd. 9:00 a.m.– Join us for coffee. All are welcome.

**First Thursday of the Month** - Anyone retired from the State Patrol is invited. This is an informal gathering, no reservation needed, just show up at 9:00 a.m. at the Green Lantern, McFarland, WI.

**First Thursday of the Month** - DOT Retiree Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Held at Monona Garden Family Restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road, Monona, WI. No reservation needed.

**Last Thursday of Even Numbered Months** - WISDOT/DNR Retiree Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at "The Prime" in Trego, WI. Contact Connie Salquist <[conniesalquist@yahoo.com](mailto:conniesalquist@yahoo.com)>

**Monthly** — ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) - contact Dennis Schroeder for date, time, and location. The location varies but is generally in the North Central portion of the State. Everyone welcome.  
[denniss@charter.net](mailto:denniss@charter.net)

**Second Tuesday of each month** — Retiree Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Hwy. 51 Truck Stop (I-39 & CTH Q) south of Merrill. Contact Bill Harvey at [lois3545@aol.com](mailto:lois3545@aol.com) if you are attending.

**Every Thursday** — Eau Claire Retired Law Enforcement Breakfast Group, at 8:00 a.m., any retired law enforcement officer welcomed. Held at VFW Post 305, 1300 Starr Avenue, Eau Claire, WI.

If you know of additional events or gatherings of State Patrol alumni, please let us know so we can post it for all to see or attend. Send these items to [bjyoung@charter.net](mailto:bjyoung@charter.net). Send items in as soon as you hear of them. Thank you.

## 2015 WSPAA OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

<b>President:</b> Scott Lindemann	<a href="mailto:sgklindemann@charter.net">sgklindemann@charter.net</a>
<b>Vice-President:</b> Mike Jennings	<a href="mailto:mikeandjudy@mhtc.net">mikeandjudy@mhtc.net</a> - Mike manages the WSPAA online store
<b>Secretary:</b> Gary Brogan	<a href="mailto:Caboosedad@charter.net">Caboosedad@charter.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Lyle Bliss	<a href="mailto:LRBliss57@gmail.com">LRBliss57@gmail.com</a>
Northwest (NW) Regional Reps:	Robert Follis: <a href="mailto:bcfollis@charter.net">bcfollis@charter.net</a> Keith Young: <a href="mailto:keithyoung@centurytel.net">keithyoung@centurytel.net</a>
North Central (NC) Regional Reps.	Bruce Bishop: <a href="mailto:blpabish@yahoo.com">blpabish@yahoo.com</a> William Harvey: <a href="mailto:LOIS3545@aol.com">LOIS3545@aol.com</a>
Northeast (NE) Regional Reps:	David Catalano: <a href="mailto:wsp305@aol.com">wsp305@aol.com</a> Bruce Conover: <a href="mailto:bconover@centurytel.net">bconover@centurytel.net</a>
Southwest (SW) Regional Reps:	Phillip Wenzel: <a href="mailto:wenzel@dwave.net">wenzel@dwave.net</a> ———SW (second rep) Vacant———
Southeast (SE) Regional Reps:	John Mundy: <a href="mailto:489@wi.rr.com">489@wi.rr.com</a> ———SE (second rep.) VACANT———
Membership Coordinator:	Mary Sander: <a href="mailto:mamabear6615@gmail.com">mamabear6615@gmail.com</a>
By-Laws Chair	Maynard Stoehr: <a href="mailto:mistoehr@charter.net">mistoehr@charter.net</a>
Webmaster:	Diane King: <a href="mailto:dianeking@charter.net">dianeking@charter.net</a>
Publications:	Bob Young: <a href="mailto:bjyoung@charter.net">bjyoung@charter.net</a> Proof-reading: Janet Sabatke and Frieda Haesler



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

\_\_\_\_ New member: Please complete the entire form

\_\_\_\_ Membership renewal: If there are no changes in your address, telephone or email address - only fill in your name and check this box.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Current DSP Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired/Separated (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rank or Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started State Service: \_\_\_\_\_

May we share this information with other members: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

\*Dues Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Full Member or \_\_\_\_ Associate Member: \$15/year each

\*Return to Lyle Bliss, 927 Nantucket Dr., Janesville, WI 53546-1759 \*Payable to: WSPAA, Inc.

Membership Contacts:

Lyle Bliss, Treasurer, 608-931-4060 - [LRBliss57@gmail.com](mailto:LRBliss57@gmail.com)

Mary Sander, Membership Coordinator, 715-222-3524 — [mamabear6615@gmail.com](mailto:mamabear6615@gmail.com)

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Visit our website: [www.wspalumni.org](http://www.wspalumni.org)