

# With Honors

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## Laurels & Hardy

The vast majority of students in the Centennial Honors College are incoming freshmen with outstanding ACT scores with impressive high school grades and currently enrolled WIU freshmen or sophomores who earn minimum 3.4 grade point averages. A much smaller number of students enrolled in the Honors College are transfer students, especially those from area community colleges.

As a WIU graduate who transferred from Southeastern (Iowa) Community College, I am keenly aware of the need to increase our recruitment of outstanding transfer students. Indeed, some of our very best honor students have started at community colleges, including Elizabeth Etta, Western's first finalist for the Truman Scholarship, and our current Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kenneth Hawkinson.

For many students, attending a community college for one or two years is completely rational. These students can save money by living at home and complete most of their general education requirements before transferring to Western to complete their baccalaureate degrees. Certainly, this was the case for me.

Last year, I asked the Office of Admissions to generate a list of current WIU students who transferred from community colleges with a minimum grade point average of 3.5/4.0. The number was an astonishing 516 – a number approaching 77 percent of the current honors enrollment!

Unfortunately, relatively few of those outstanding transfer students join the Centennial Honors College each year. I suspect there are two major reasons for this. First, many outstanding students transfer from community colleges that are devoid of honors programs. And second, once the transfers arrive on the WIU campus, they are not fully aware of the opportunities that our honors college can provide. Thus, by the time WIU transfer students learn out about the Centennial Honors College, typically toward the end of their junior year, it is nearly too late to complete the honors requirements in a reasonable time.

We plan to reverse this trend using a three-pronged strategy. First, we are establishing articulation agreements with area community colleges to foster honors programs and ensure the smooth transitioning of outstanding students into the Centennial Honors College. Second, Ms. Michele Aurand, Western's award-winning academic advisor, has been assigned to recruit and advise transfer honor students and to serve as the academic coordinator for the WIU-Quad Cities campus, where the vast majority of students are transfer students. Finally, our Honors College has established relations with two notable honorary societies that were created to foster outstanding community college and transfer students. The two national honoraries are Phi Theta Kappa and Tau Sigma.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is an honorary society for community college students who maintain a minimum 3.5/4.0 grade point average. While PTK charters are reserved solely for community colleges, four-year institutions may initiate PTK alumni associations. Such associations create an essential link to outstanding community colleges and will enable us to reach outstanding transfer students before they enroll at Westerner. Last week, WIU inducted our very first PTK Alumni Association members. The prime movers of this were Alli Reed, Crystal Cho Jones, Jacob Soto, Mary Hinman and Brittany Stirmell. Moreover, Ms. Tishly Herrington, our WIU transfer coordinator, has graciously agreed to serve as the organization's advisor.

Most recently, Michele Aurand filed papers to establish a chapter of Tau Sigma (TS) in the Centennial Honors College. TS is an honorary designed for students who transfer to a four-year institution after completing at least one full academic year at another institution. Students are required to have a minimum 3.5/4.0 grade point average or be in the top 20 percent of all incoming transfer students during the term in question. This honorary will enable us to recognize outstanding students who qualify for neither Phi Eta Sigma (the national honorary for freshmen who first matriculate at WIU) nor Phi Theta Kappa (because their community college did not have a chapter or because they started at another four-year institution).

We are confident that these changes will result in marked enrollments of outstanding transfer students into the Centennial Honors College in the years to come.

*-Rick Hardy, Director*



## Notes from the Associate Director



The Centennial Honors College celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Honors at WIU in style on Founders' Day, September 23, 2013. As chair of the Anniversary Committee, I would like to extend my thanks to all of those who assisted in planning the day's events, including Honors student Chris Fidecki, former Honors Development Officer Michael Jones, Jeff Hancks from University Libraries, Jessica Harriger from the Department of Economics and Decision Sciences, former Honors Director Sterling Kernek, Teresa Koltzenburg from University Relations, Diane Sandage from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. I would also like to recognize those who participated in the Distinguished Honors Alumni Panel event: Michael Baxa, Mark Boley, Brian Koch, Jarrod Sheets, and Holly Ann Stovall, as well as Honors student Matt Nelson and former Director Gordon Kirk, who were on hand for the ceremonial cake

cutting, and Tammy Sayles from University Libraries, who helped coordinate the advertising and facilities. I offer special thanks also to the former Directors who participated in the Honors Directors Panel: Gordon Kirk, Sterling Kernek, Tom Helm, Jutta Helm, Marty Dupuis, and Bill Knox. Digger Oster and Lin Stults of Engraving by Lin also provided invaluable assistance with preparations, and the President's International String Quartet, under the direction of Richard Hughey of the School of Music, created a wonderful start to the evening celebration in Sherman Hall. I would also like to give special recognition to Jeff Hancks for his fine work on the Honors Anniversary video and to Teresa Koltzenburg and Molly Homer for their tireless promotion of the event. Last, but definitely not least, I want to thank the indefatigable Patty Battles, without whom the night's success would have been impossible.



## Golden Key Updates

On Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> Golden Key served as a cosponsor for the first WIU Food and Culture Club event of the 2013-2014

academic year, designed to introduce first-year students to various features of campus life. Chapter advisor and Honors College Associate Director Dr. McNabb discussed eligibility requirements and opportunities of membership in both the Centennial Honors College and the WIU chapter of Golden Key and joined many other speakers in discussing diverse academic, service, and cultural opportunities at WIU. At the conclusion of the program, all

attendees enjoyed a healthy meal hosted by the Food and Culture Club, the Hospitality Administration Association, and the students of FCS 152 "Principles of Food Preparation" classes.



Thanks to everyone who Liked Western Illinois GK on Facebook for the recent Golden Key Facebook contest. The WIU chapter increased its Likes from 33 to an impressive 122. The chapter missed out on the prize money, but we appreciate your support!

Reminder: prospective members, those who recently received invitations to join, and new students, are invited to attend an Info Session scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 in the Sandburg Lounge to learn more about the Society and its member benefits; contact [JLMcnabb@wiu.edu](mailto:JLMcnabb@wiu.edu) for additional details.



**Thanks for celebrating  
with us!**



## Honors Student of the Month

Current Student Honors Association President Datrese Hearn, a double major in Political Science and Sociology, is our Honors Student of the Month for October. Datrese recalls joining the Honors College after a successful first semester of coursework at Western. As a sophomore, she became active in SHA, serving as Social Chair before enhancing her leadership skills with a term as the group's president. Datrese also serves as the Scholastic Chair for the Black Student Association (BSA) and is a member of the Sociology and the Political Science clubs on campus. When asked about Honors College memories, she points to the rewarding service opportunities SHA offers its members: "A memory I would like to share involves the 'Adopt a Street' program and how it is always a joy to get to meet people personally and volunteer together." Datrese identifies Political Science Assistant Professor Macherie Placide as an important mentor, stating, "Dr. Placide has helped to stay motivated and

involved in school." Datrese will serve as one of Western's nominees this year for the prestigious Truman Scholarship, and her recent accolades led to her selection to provide an upcoming motivational address to the Class of 2014 at her former school, John Marshall High School in Chicago.

Datrese is enthusiastic about the advantages of membership in the Honors College. She notes, "I want to say that I am thrilled with this recognition. I am the fourth oldest of nine children and the first to attend college. I have been through many obstacles, and I am glad that I have continued to achieve throughout it all. Thank you for the recognition and for the support that the Honors College has given me." Datrese's career goals indicate the desire to give back to others. She is exploring law schools and hopes to become a lawyer with a focus on criminal, family, and international law.

**Good luck in your future endeavors, Datrese!**

## Honors Students in the News



Senior Honors student Crystal Cho Jones has recently been awarded the Mary Olive Woods Academic Excellence Award by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Crystal, a double major in Religious Studies

and Sociology, was selected to receive the \$6000 scholarship, which requires recipients be full-time students with a declared major in Religious Studies and enrolled in a Philosophy course or a declared major in Philosophy and enrolled in a Religious Studies course. Crystal is an active student scholar, serving as co-founder and vice president of Western's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Alumni Association, Vice President of the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, and Vice President of the Asian American Student Association. She has taken an active role in numerous campus events, including the Global Youth Service Day literacy project,

"Oh, The Places You Go!" with Golden Key International Honour Society, the "College Student for a Day" program with the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and several presentations on her Study Abroad experiences in South Korea, including a Power-Point lecture at a recent WIU Food and Culture Club event. Crystal is also applying for a prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea this fall, and she intends to follow her undergraduate degree with graduate coursework in Education, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology as she prepares for a career in education.

When asked about the Mary Olive Woods Academic Excellence Award, Crystal responds, "To be given a scholarship for my academic achievements gives me pride and encourages me to continue on my journey to learn and achieve in my life as a future educator and be a role model for other students that nothing is impossible."

**Congratulations, Crystal!**

## Honors Faculty Profile

The Honors Faculty Profile for October features Dr. Simon Cordery, who has served as the chair of the Department of History since his arrival at Western in July 2012 and regularly teaches the department's course on Sports History. Dr. Cordery earned a trio of degrees in History: a B.A. from Northern Illinois University, an M.A. from the University of York, and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. He also completed coursework at the Folger Institute in Washington, D.C. and at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Cordery's research specialties include labor history and trans-Atlantic mutualism (Dr. Cordery explains, "When I write about mutualism I refer to a situation in which two or more parties recognize that action in their shared interest is more conducive than conflict to a prosperous, stable future. Thus, for example, in the American railroad industry the Brotherhoods—the labor unions in the industry—were created to promulgate mutual relations in the best interests of workers and management. Ideologically this was a smart stand for nascent labor unions, but of course in reality conflict did occur and mutualism was not always sustainable"). His current short-term research focuses on the history of railroading in Illinois, the subject of a book-length study in progress entitled, "The Iron Road in the Prairie State." Dr. Cordery's long-term projects involve a history of mutualism in the Victorian era and an article on the cultural and political significance of Cold War-era England v. Rest of the World soccer matches. His recent publications include *Mother Jones: Raising Cain and Consciousness* (University of New Mexico Press, 2010), "a biography of the amazing Irish-American labor leader."

Dr. Cordery's research interests in British history and railroads inform but do not dominate his own reading. He is a regular reader of *The Guardian* online, the *Peoria Journal-Star*, the *London Review of Books*, *The Week*, and two railroad magazines: *Trains* (U.S.) and *Railway Magazine* (U.K.). Aside from readings for class, he cites among recent reads Chris Anderson and David Sally's *The Numbers*



*Game: Why Everything You Know About Soccer is Wrong*, Richard Davenport-Hines's *An English Affair: Sex, Class and Power in the Age of the Profumo*, and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. He identifies *The Fall* by Albert Camus as a favorite book he recommends to others. He describes the book as "a solid reminder to keep things in perspective and remember not to get too serious about much of anything. Camus avoids the postmodern trap of irony, of becoming too cynical; he is the most humanistic, and indeed humane, of the Existentialists. Laughter is all around us, sometimes with us and sometimes at us, and that's to be expected and even embraced."

Although Dr. Cordery has worked with Honors students in his courses, attended various Centennial Honors College events, been inducted with a number of Honors students into Phi Eta Sigma, spring 2013 will provide his first opportunity to offer an Honors course. He states, "I am scheduled to teach GH 299, United States Railroad History and Practice, which will meet twice weekly for the first half of the semester and conclude with a Spring Break trip to Colorado (by rail, naturally!). In Colorado we will visit rail-industry sites, including a federal rail-technology testing facility, a regional rail museum, a rail-served brewery, and an internationally known preservation steam railroad." Interested students will need to complete an application and provide a deposit this semester, and space in the course is limited: be sure to apply early!

Contact Dr. Cordery for additional details or questions about his spring Honors course.

To study without desire spoils the memory, and it retains nothing it takes in.  
-Leonardo Da Vinci



## Honors Alum Profile

Western graduate Matthew Field is featured in this month's Honors Alum Profile. Matt graduated from WIU in 2000 with a B.A. in History and then returned for an M.A. in U.S. History in 2001-2002. After the completion of his degrees at Western, Matt went on to earn both an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma, 2004-2011. Matt's professional achievements since leaving WIU are many and earned Matt in 2011 the WIU Department of History's Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented each year at the Annual History Conference. He received a Carl Albert Graduate Fellowship at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma, 2004-2009, and a Congressional Fellowship from the American Political Science Association from 2007 to 2008. From fall 2009 to spring 2013, Matt worked as part of the Professional Staff at the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on House Administration in Washington D.C., and in the summer of 2013 he worked as

Project Management Coordinator in the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress. In August he published *Congress, the Constitution, and Divided Government*, and he currently works as the Exhibits & Education Program Specialist at the Capitol Visitor Center, a sub-unit for the Architect of the Capitol. To learn more about the Capitol Visitor Center, visit <http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/>

**Q:** Do you have WIU Honors memories or reflections you would like to share?

**MF:** The Honors Program allowed me the opportunity to study historical issues I would not have been able to do otherwise. Equally as important, it allowed me the opportunity to develop professional relationships within my respective department that enhanced my experience and contributed to my success both within the department in subsequent graduate training, and going forward post-WIU.

## Keep Calm and Think On!

### The Presidents Institute wants YOU!

This student organization is searching for all Western Students, especially Honors College Students, with ideas to change the world. No matter how big or how small, every opportunity counts to make Western, Macomb, Illinois, our nation and our world better, stronger, safer.

The Presidents Institute Premiere Student Think Tank is currently working on a few initiatives to improve student policies and overall wellness on campus. If you are interested in discussing and implementing interpersonal violence prevention, our campus' smoking policy or recreational alternatives for college aged individuals, we are the student organization for you.



For more information,  
please stop by the Honors College office or  
email [thepresidentsinstitute@wiu.edu](mailto:thepresidentsinstitute@wiu.edu).



## Honors Opportunities in Belfast

Are you an avid Game of Thrones fan? Are you fascinated by the Titanic? Have you ever dreamed of traveling to the Emerald Isle? Here's your chance to glimpse Peter Dinklage\*, to see the city that gave birth to the grandest sea vessel of its time, and to make your dreams of Ireland come true, all while earning credit toward your degree. WIU in Belfast is a study abroad program that pairs a six-week online course with three weeks spent studying under the Institute of Irish Studies at prestigious Queen's University in beautiful Belfast, Northern Ireland. Honors students in particular will benefit from the online course and the program at Queen's, both of which take an interdisciplinary approach to studying the people and culture of Northern Ireland, challenging students of any major to apply the ideas central to their disciplines to the study of this richly complex region. Instruction at Queen's includes lectures from leading scholars of Ireland on topics as diverse as agriculture, cinema, economics, geography, history, literature, politics, religion, and sports. The program also features evening sessions on traditional Irish music and dancing, guest speakers, and field trips to popular Northern Ireland destinations such as the Antrim Coast, Dunluce Castle, Giant's Causeway, Derry/Londonderry, the Titanic Belfast museum, and Ulster American Folk Park. Behind-the-scenes field trips specially arranged by Queen's University also allow students to go to places not accessible to most tourists: the headquarters of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Stormont, the home of the Northern Ireland Assembly, where students will have the opportunity to ask questions of the leaders of Northern Ireland's political parties.

Undergraduate participants will earn three credit hours for POLS 379 and three credit hours for UNIV 379. Interested Honors students are encouraged to explore the possibility of In-Course Honors credit for the program. Travel will take place from the third week of July to the first week of August 2014, with exact dates soon to be



set by Queen's University.

More information about WIU in Belfast, including eligibility requirements, is available at <http://wiu-sa.terradotta.com/?go=wiuinbelfast> and the final information session of the semester will be held Thursday, November 7 at 5 pm in Morgan 314. Applications are due by February 3.

Interested students are also encouraged to contact faculty leader Dr. Erin Taylor, Associate Professor of Political Science, at [e-taylor@wiu.edu](mailto:e-taylor@wiu.edu) or Kim McDaniel in the Office of Study Abroad at [kd-mcdaniel@wiu.edu](mailto:kd-mcdaniel@wiu.edu).

\*Results not guaranteed. However, at least one previous participant in WIU in Belfast reports spotting Dinklage—at least, she thinks it was him—on a break from filming.

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Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative development.

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

# WERE YOU PART OF PHI THETA KAPPA AT YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE?



WANT TO CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND FELLOWSHIP?

We are here to offer you a community of like-minded individuals that want to continue pursuing and learning about the four hallmarks!



IF SO, COME JOIN THE WIU PHI THETA KAPPA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!!

Please contact Alli Reed: AK-REED2@WIU.EDU

## Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15 Career Development Workshop G.K. Info Session	16	17	18	19
20	21 Admissions Ambassador Application due	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	November 1	2

A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.

-Winston Churchill

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