Weekly E-Letter

Centennial Honors College

January 18 Last Day to Add Classes
The last day to add a regularly scheduled 16 week class this semester is Friday, January 18. The last day to drop a class and not have to pay for it is Monday, January 28. After January 28, you can still withdraw from a course until March 31, but the course will show up on your transcript with a “W” grade and you will be charged for it.

HCIR Student Conference March 2
The Honors Council of the Illinois Region will hold its annual student research conference on March 2, 2013 at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. If you would like to present at the HCIR conference, contact Dr. Hardy at RJ-Hardy@wiu.edu.

In-Course Honors Proposals Due Friday, February 8!
If you plan to do an in-course honors project this semester, you should know that the deadline for turning in your in-course honors proposal is Friday, February 8. That gives you four weeks to think of your project, discuss it with your professor, fill out the form, and bring it in to the Honors College. You can download the blank form as a Word file from our website here: http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/forms.php. Be sure to consult your honors plan before you start planning your project, to make sure your project will count towards your honors requirements. If you have questions, email your honors advisor at MK-Homer@wiu.edu. If you don’t know what an in-course honors project is, you probably don’t need to do one.

Featured Study Abroad Program of the Week: Study Abroad Fair & “How to Find Money to Study Abroad” Workshop (by Emily Bahr)
Welcome back, students! As you begin the new semester, now is a great time to learn about the study abroad programs available to you as a WIU student.

The Spring Study Abroad Fair will be held on Thursday, January 24th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Prairie Lounge in the University Union. This is an opportunity for you to stop by and talk with staff members from the Office of Study Abroad, representatives from study abroad programs, faculty who are leading upcoming programs, and returned study abroad students. You will also have the chance to learn about scholarships and register to win door prizes!

The "How to Find Money to Study Abroad" Workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 6th at 3:30 p.m. in the Capitol Rooms in the University Union. This workshop will show you that studying abroad is affordable - some programs even cost about the same as studying here on campus - and it will introduce you to the resources available to help fund your study abroad experience. During this workshop, returned study abroad students as well as representatives from the Office of Study Abroad, the Scholarship Office, and Financial Aid will be on hand to answer your questions.

We hope to see you at these upcoming events! If you are interested in learning more about Study Abroad at WIU, please contact the Office of Study Abroad at (309) 298-2504, visit our website at www.wiu.edu/studyabroad, or like our Facebook page: Western Illinois University Study Abroad.
Representative from the University of Illinois College of Law at WIU January 25

A representative from the University of Illinois College of Law will be on campus to meet with Political Science majors at WIU on January 25 at noon in Morgan 207A. Although the event has been organized by the Political Science Department, all WIU students are welcome to attend the meeting. If you have questions about this meeting, email Sharon Keeling at SB-Keeling@wiu.edu. Students who are interested in law school should also plan on attending the annual Pre-Law Symposium on February 18. Representatives from nearly a dozen regional law schools will be there, and the event will include a panel of WIU graduates who are now law students or practicing attorneys.

“NEW” Leadership Conference for College Women in Chicago, June 3-7

This summer, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois and the Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly, are co-sponsoring a week-long program for college women to increase their representation in public life. The program is called the NEW Leadership program, and will be held in Chicago from June 3 to June 7. Applications for the program will be accepted until March 1, 2013. You can read more about the program here: http://igpa.uillinois.edu/pe/new-leadership.

Dupuis Award in GLBT Communities Applications Due March 8

Applications for the Martin Dupuis Mukti Fund Leadership Award in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Communities are now being accepted by the University Committee on Sexual Orientation. The $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student returning to WIU for the 2013-14 academic year, and who has shown leadership either in the GLBT community at WIU, or in regards to GLBT issues. Applicants must submit an application form, a short essay, a resume, and two letters of reference to Tami McCoy in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access by 4:30pm on Friday, March 8. For more information, email TK-McCoy@wiu.edu, or call (309) 298-1977.

Useful Website of the Week: Office of the Registrar at WIU

During my advising appointments, I frequently find myself showing students the website for the WIU Office of the Registrar: http://www.wiu.edu/registrar/. My favorite feature on this page is the GPA calculator which helps students predict their future cumulative GPA’s given different grade scenarios. The GPA calculator can even factor in replacement grades for previously taken courses, following the WIU grade replacement policy. In addition to the GPA calculator, the Registrar’s Office website has all sorts of information about university policies of interest to students (including Grade Replacement and CAGAS appeals), and important deadlines. In fact many of the deadlines I put in the E-Letter can be found on this website. See for yourself!
Mystery Photo of the Week

E-Letter readers must be unusually healthy. The minimal response to the mystery photos in the last E-Letter before the break (below and left) suggests that E-Letter readers don’t spend a lot of time at the McDonough District Hospital (or perhaps that they were busy studying for finals). Only Patty Battles responded that I must have been standing at the entrance of the hospital gift shop when I took these pictures. The stained glass picture on the left is across the hall from the Gift Gallery, in the stairwell to the basement. The stuffed toys are just inside the door of the Gift Gallery. The McDonough District Hospital is in the south part of Macomb, on Grant Street just east of Dudley.

Movies Movies Movies

The new movies at the Rialto this weekend are “Gangster Squad” with Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, and Emma Stone, and “Zero Dark Thirty” with Jessica Chastain. For you film buffs, the nominations for the 2013 Academy Awards were announced yesterday, and you can read all of them here: http://www.oscars.org/. To see a full schedule of what is playing at the Rialto, go to: http://www.earlann.net/rialtocinemas.html or call 833-2626.

Ya’s Sudoku:

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Honors College History: 2013 marks the 30th anniversary of a university-wide honors program at WIU. From time to time this year, the E-Letter will feature pictures from the olden days in the Honors College. My own Honors College picture collection only goes back to 2003, so please feel free to send pictures from the first 20 years if you have them. Above is the first in the series. This picture was taken in early 2006 at former Honors College Director Tom Helm’s retirement reception. Tom is on the right, and standing with him are honors students Mark Hlavacik and Alex Heuer.