The Presidents Institute

Each center would have one or more graduate students and one or more undergraduate students. Faculty would serve as facilitators and editors—not censors.

The ultimate goal is to enable Western students the opportunity to engage in original thinking and showcase those ideas. We envision the development of blogs, op-ed pieces, and articles that can be published online, revealed in newspapers, presented at professional conferences and published in professional journals.

Thus far the response from Western faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students has been overwhelming. In the next month, we will begin putting the organization in place that may open the door to the "next great ideas."

Above all, we want the rest of the world to know that Western’s best students can stand with the best students anywhere. - Rick Hardy

Laurels & Hardy

In keeping with Western’s new theme, “Think Purple, Think...”, the Centennial Honors College is launching a new enterprise—a student think tank, called The Presidents Institute. The term “Presidents” refers to Illinois’ four U.S. Presidents—Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, and Obama. Our proposed logo includes an artist’s rendition of these politically diverse Presidents on a map of Illinois. The idea is to create instant recognition across a broad spectrum.

Think tanks are nothing new. Indeed, there are scores of think tanks dedicated to researching national problems and offering solutions. What we seek to create is a non-partisan, student think tank centered in an honors college! While a number of college students have tried to start unaffiliated think tanks, few universities, if any, have sponsored think tanks under the auspices of an honors college. This concept places the Centennial Honors College on the cutting edge among the nation’s honors colleges.

Credit for The Presidents Institute goes to Dr. David Rohall, an award-winning professor of sociology. Rohall’s idea was further advanced by political science professors Jon Day, Casey LaFrance and Keith Boeckelman, and fine tuned by a committee of honors students representing each college in Western Illinois University.

Some of the greatest inventions of our time originated in the minds of college students. Apple computers, Microsoft, and Facebook illustrate this point.

At the present time, we envision the creation of a board of directors, comprised of leading professors from the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. Each board member will be in charge of a “research center” based on substantive fields.

“Name This Newsletter!” Contest

Put on your thinking caps: the Centennial Honors College wants your help in renaming this newsletter. What title would you like to see on our masthead? Submit your suggestions to Associate Director McNabb (Mcnabb@wiu.edu) by October 1st; the author of the winning title, as selected by the Honors College staff, will win a $25 gift certificate to the University Union Bookstore, redeemable for clothing, merchandise, or textbooks.

Submissions from students, faculty, and friends of the College are all welcome. Good luck!
Welcoming our new Associate Director

Dr. Jen McNabb

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I take up my new position as the Associate Director of the Centennial Honors College. As a former undergraduate Honors student, I know well the benefits and personal satisfaction that comes from an Honors education, and I am delighted to be a part of the WIU Honors College team.

One of my responsibilities is the Honors College Newsletter, and I am pleased to announce that exciting changes are coming. In coordination with the “Name This Newsletter” Contest, the newsletter will also soon feature new columns highlighting our high-achieving Honors students, Honors faculty, and successful Honors alumni. We are initiating an “Honors Student of the Month” award, with awardees to be profiled in the newsletter; if you are a student or a member of the WIU faculty and staff who knows about an Honors student doing great things, submit his or her name and a brief statement of nomination to me at JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu (self-nominations are also welcome!). Also coming are features on scholarships and professional development, so be sure to watch for our new developments.

Finally, I would like to hear from you: what do you readers want to see in your Honors College newsletter? I welcome your feedback! Please send your suggestions to JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu or our newsletter designer, graduate student Caitlin Salmon at CA-Salmon@wiu.edu, or stop by the Honors College to deliver them in person.

Honors Society Spotlight

Are you a high-achieving student interested in developing your leadership skills, enhancing your personal network, and making a difference in the community? Golden Key International Honour Society may be the perfect fit for you! Golden Key is the world’s largest collegiate honor society. Membership into the Society is by invitation only for the top 15% of college and university sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as top-performing graduate students in all fields of study. Golden Key members include students from all over the world, university presidents, faculty and staff, teachers, doctors, engineers, social workers, entrepreneurs, politicians and military leaders, etc. The Society offers members valuable opportunities for individual growth through its three pillars of academics, leadership, and service and offers numerous scholarships and awards, as well as career development, networking, and literacy service opportunities. The WIU chapter of Golden Key will soon be extending invitations to qualified students, so watch for your invitation.

Attention current Golden Key members: We are seeking chapter leaders to serve on our executive board. The chapter is pleased to announce the availability of a local scholarship prize for members willing to serve the organization in the following roles: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested, submit via email your name, the name of the officer position you are seeking, a brief paragraph discussing your qualifications, and a list of awards, honors, and activities to Dr. Jen McNabb (JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu) and Dean Susan Martinelli-Fernandez (Martinelli-Fernandez@wiu.edu) by September 25th. Recipients will be notified by October 1st.
Phi Eta Sigma

Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony Saturday, September 8th. This year’s class consisted of 69 high-achieving sophomore students who received a 3.5 GPA or higher after their freshman year. The 2012 induction ceremony was particularly special. We not only honored numerous faculty members for their achievements and contributions towards higher education, but WIU President Dr. Jack Thomas also delivered a speech that urged students to become better people, and more precisely, better leaders. Those faculty/staff members selected as honorary members include: Dr. J. Scott McConnell, Professor of Chemistry, Diane Sandage, Professor of Sociology, Dr. Keith Boeckelman, Chair of the Political Science Department, Jason Conner, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance, and Janell McGruder, Program Assistant for the Honors College. On behalf of Phi Eta Sigma, I would like to congratulate everyone who was inducted into our prestigious society and thank everyone who made it all possible.

-Steven Wailand

Honors Welcome Back Party

The Centennial Honors College held the annual Welcome Back Party on Tuesday, September 4th in the Honors College and the Garden Lounge. About 100 incoming and returning Honors students attended and enjoyed free food & drinks, ice breaker games, and a brief talk given by President Jack Thomas.

Autumn, the year’s last, loveliest smile. – William Cullen Bryant
Greetings from the Student Honors Association! Michele Aurand is the new faculty/staff advisor this year for SHA. Executive Board elections were held on Wednesday, September 5th here in the Honors College. Congratulations to the following new e-board members:

Zac Andrew - President
Liz Etta - Vice President
Andrew Brown - Treasurer
Megha Patel - Secretary
Tyler Czarnecki - SGA Representative
Annabelle Borota - Service Chair
Datrese Hearn - Social Chair
Tierra Valentine - Programming Chair
Steve Wailand - Publicity Chair
Paris Hamm - Fundraising Chair
Alexa Zoellner - Journalist
Angela Castello - Web Designer

If you are a student in the Centennial Honors College, then you are automatically a member of SHA. Come to our first general meeting to see what exciting and fun projects we have slated for this school year and get involved. Details will be available in upcoming editions of the Weekly E-letter. Let's make this a great year for SHA!

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**Calendar Events: September 9—October 13**

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- **September 11**: Homecoming Variety Show
- **September 18**: Founder’s Day Celebration
- **September 19**: Submission Deadline: Golden Key Prize
- **September 25**: Banned and Determined, Garden Lounge 7:00 - 9:00pm
- **October 1**: Deadline: Name This Newsletter Contest
- **October 7**: Big Pink Volleyball begins
- **October 14**: Mary Olive Woods Lecture Grand Ballroom 7:30pm
- **October 21**: Homecoming Yell Like Hell
- **October 28**: Horn Field Flashlight Corn Maze, 7:45pm
- **October 29**: Homecoming