Every vital enterprise must continually set and meet goals. The Centennial Honors College is no exception. Here are our primary goals for the coming year:

**Celebrate Accomplishments.** According to Ms. Patty Battles, Fall 2013 marks the 30th anniversary of our honors program. To commemorate this milestone, the honors college will host a gala event to recognize significant contributors and celebrate our accomplishments. We will also use the event to honor all previous directors.

**Accelerate Recruitment.** The establishment of the Centennial Honors Scholarships last year enabled the CHC to recruit some of the brightest high school students in the region. This fall we have again identified and targeted a group of exceptional students for Centennial Honors Scholarships. We are stepping up efforts to recruit transfer students and currently enrolled undergraduates who can earn their way into the college by outstanding classroom performance. Ideally, an honors college should represent the top ten percent of the student body.

**Build Academic Bridges.** Led by Ms. Janell McGruder, the Honors College is collaborating with deans and chairs to designate “Honors Diplomats” within every department in the university. The Diplomats will serve as liaisons to update faculty about the workings of the Honors College, identify outstanding students, recruit students from underrepresented groups, and promote our common interests.

**Enhance Funding.** In conjunction with the Foundation, Development Officer Michael Jones and the Honors College are working hard to identify and cultivate additional funding for Scholarships. This past year, the Honors College was fortunate to acquire several new scholarships and secure significant additional funding from ongoing benefactors. The Honors College is exploring the possibility of an annual fundraising event.

**Promote Diversity.** Last year the Honors College instituted a Task Force to recruit and maintain honors students from underrepresented groups. Recommendations included the creation of the aforementioned Honors Diplomats, plus internal and external outreach programs. Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Janell McGruder, we have commenced a mentorship program to recruit outstanding minority students and have expanded our outreach to incoming students, including students from the St. Louis and Chicago areas. Currently, there are 91 minority students (out of 600 total students) in the Honors College, an increase of nearly 5 percent over the previous year.

**Increase Research Opportunities.** Research is an important component of any honors college. The Honors College plans to expand significantly the number of students presenting poster and podium presentations at the spring Thomas Helm Undergraduate Research Day. The Honors College is further developing a student think tank, the Presidents Institute, that will serve as an academic incubator for creative research and publications.

**Showcase Honors Students.** There are myriad ways to showcase the accomplishments of our honors students. Dr. Molly Homer continues to cover ongoing events and outstanding contributions through her weekly “E-Letters.” Dr. Jennifer McNabb has established a “Student of the Month” segment for “With Honors,” our newly named monthly newsletter. And we will continue to work with Darcie Shinberger and University Relations to craft news releases concerning student accomplishments.

**Compete for Prestigious Scholarships.** The Honors College will accelerate efforts to nominate qualified students for prestigious national and international post-baccalaureate scholarships. These include the Rhodes, Truman, Goldwater, Udall and Cooke Scholarships. The Centennial Honors College is not the exclusive preserve of any one college, department, or group of scholars. It is a treasure that belongs to everyone associated with Western Illinois University. Our goals are lofty, yet reasonable. We challenge all students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to help us attain these worthy goals.
The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.
- Emile Zola

Notes from the Associate Director

Welcome to the October installment of the newsletter of the Centennial Honors College, now featuring a new name and logo on the masthead (courtesy of our talented Graduate Assistant, Caitlin Salmon). We received numerous submissions in our “Name This Newsletter” contest, and I am pleased to announce that WIU Honors alum and current doctoral candidate at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Abby Lagemann provided the winning suggestion: “With Honors.” “With Honors” is a phrase long associated with academic excellence, evocative of the three levels of Latin honors used to demonstrate the level of distinction earned in the pursuit of academic degree. The staff of the Honors College agreed that the name highlights the central aim of the College to provide academically talented and motivated students an enriched academic curriculum and opportunities for leadership, professional growth, and service learning that lead them to graduate with honors. Further, the new name serves as an appropriate reminder that this newsletter does indeed give readers the chance to be “With Honors,” wherever they may be: to read about the achievements of our outstanding students, alumni, faculty and staff, and friends; to learn about upcoming events and opportunities; and to stay connected with the College. To that end, this month’s newsletter includes features on our first Honors Student of Month designee, Steve Wailand, a faculty profile on Professor Virginia Boynton, and an update from New York Times Bestselling Author and WIU Honors alum Erin Verbeck. I again extend readers the invitation to contact me at JL.Mcnabb@wiu.edu or our newsletter designer, graduate student Caitlin Salmon at CA.Salmon@wiu.edu if you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the newsletter. Enjoy this issue, and have a wonderful month!

Career Services Spotlight

Career Services is holding workshops to help you for life after college!

Come join us in our 30 minute workshops at Memorial Hall 124 to get help with everything from resumes to cleaning up your Facebook!

Wednesdays 3:30 pm
- Oct 17th – Dressing the Part: Interviews
- Nov 7th – Skype and Phone Interviews
- Nov 14th – Resumes 101-Getting Started!
- Nov 28th – Maximizing your LinkedIn Network

Tuesdays 11:00 am
- Oct 16th – Building your Network
- Oct 23rd – Career Fair Preparation
- Nov 13th – Advanced Interviewing
- Nov 27th – Job Shadowing and Externships
The subject of this month’s Honors Faculty Profile is Professor of History Virginia Boynton. Dr. Boynton is a specialist in U.S. women’s history, modern U.S. social history, and colonial Latin America. She came to WIU in 1995 after earning a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, and among her many service activities, Dr. Boynton currently serves as the faculty advisor for the Associated Students of History (ASH) and as a member of the University Honors Council. She has had a long association with the Honors College, having served as supervisor of numerous In-Course Honors projects and Honors theses as well as teaching an Honors FYE section of U.S. History.

An avid reader, Dr. Boynton’s recent reads include Kathleen Myers’s Neither Saints Nor Sinners: Writing the Lives of Women in Spanish America; Maureen Flanagan’s Seeing with their Hearts: Chicago Women and the Vision of the Good City, 1871-1933; Mara Keire’s For Business and Pleasure: Red-Light Districts and the Regulation of Vice in the United States, 1890-1933; and Timothy Pauketat’s Cahokia: Ancient America's Great City on the Mississippi. She also notes, “I love the old original (pre-1950s) Nancy Drew mysteries – those are surely classics! Also, as an animal lover, I’m a big fan of Albert Payson Terhune’s Laddie-Dog series from earlier in the 20th century.”

Dr. Boynton makes use of a range of technologies to acquire news and information, subscribing to numerous RSS feeds via Google Reader, listening to Tri-State Public Radio, and drawing on Facebook and iPad news apps. Dr. Boynton will be offering a new Honors course in the spring, GH 301 (TR, 2-3:15):

Women in Colonial Latin American History. She describes the course as follows: “In this seminar we will explore the history of women in colonial Latin America, focusing primarily on Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. Students will analyze the impact of race and ethnicity on women’s experiences, through an examination of the lives of native American, African, Iberian, and casta (mixed-race) women in multiple countries.

By focusing on the intersections of gender with religion, race, and nationality, students will uncover the ways in which definitions of gender evolved over the course of the colonial era. The course will culminate in class presentations of research by individual students on specific aspects of colonial Latin American women's history.” If you have questions about the course, please contact Dr. Boynton at VR.Boynton@wiu.edu.

Our first Honors Student of the Month is junior Steve Wailand. Steve is majoring in Chemistry with an emphasis in Pharmacy and Neuroscience and Honors Pre-Law minors, and he plans to enter politics after law school. When asked about his involvement with the Centennial Honors College, Steve noted that while he decided to join Honors as a means to enhance his academic credentials, soon “I began to see all of the opportunities I had through the Honors College.” Those opportunities have led Steve to a variety of leadership positions in student organizations. Steve currently serves as the Director of Academic Affairs in the Student Government Association (after a term as the first Honors College Senator to SGA), President of Phi Eta Sigma (after a term as the society’s Vice President), Comedy Chair for the University Union Board, Publicity Chair for the Student Honors Association, and Recruitment Chair for Habitat for Humanity. Recent honors and accomplishments include being named a recipient of a Junior Honors Scholarship and becoming a Third Degree Master Mason in Freemasonry.

Congratulations, Steve, on your many achievements!
Going through the University Honors program is something that sets you apart ... It shows that you aren’t satisfied with just taking the basic degree requirements, but rather you want to work harder and do more than the minimum.

Honors Alum Profile: Erin Lagemann Verbeck

Erin Lagemann Verbeck is featured as this month’s Honors Alum Profile. Erin received a BA in Communication from Western and graduated with an MBA from Texas Christian University in 2007. She serves as the Chief Joy Officer at The Joy of Marketing and lists marketing, branding, small business, entrepreneurship as her areas of expertise. Erin is the New York Times bestselling author of Worth Every Penny: Build a Business That Thrills Your Customers and Still Charge What You’re Worth (published 2012).

Q: How did you get involved in the Honors College, and were you an active member of SHA or any other honors societies?

ELV: When I decided to come to Western on a track and field scholarship, I was recruited by the Honors College as well. I signed up for classes in the spring of my high school senior year and met with an Honors advisor at the time. I really appreciated the extra attention to my goals as well as the special opportunities I had as an Honors student.

Not only did the special projects I worked on as part of the Honors curriculum help me to get to know my professors, which was helpful when it came to job recommendations and graduate school applications, but it also pushed me to take the basic course requirements further. I had a lot on my plate as a student athlete, but it was good to be challenged even more in the classroom with the special requirements of the Honors program.

Going through the University Honors program is something that sets you apart from all of the other job applicants, graduate school applicants, internship applicants, etc. It shows that you aren’t satisfied with just taking the basic degree requirements, but rather you want to work harder and do more than the minimum.

I know that the research requirements for many majors in the honors program help catapult your graduate level research. But for me, research experience wasn’t required or even valued in my chosen career path. Yet the special projects that were required in the first 3 years of my Honors program experience helped open a lot of doors for future career opportunities. So even if you’re not planning to get a graduate degree or plan to use research skills for your career, there is so much more to be gained from the honors experience. Completion of a collegiate Honors program is definitely something I look for in employees we hire at The Joy of Marketing.

Q: WIU Honors memories you would like to share?

ELV: One of the first projects I had in an Honors course my sophomore year required me to spend a day in my career field of choice. It was in that job shadow day at an advertising agency that I met my current business partner, nearly 15 years ago. The agency owners were so impressed with the paper I wrote as a result of my experience (and requirement of the honors course) that they offered me an internship for the following summer.
Scholarship Notices

The Honors College would like to announce two pre-law scholarships, the Keith Webb Memorial Scholarship and the Charles H. “Chick” & Barbara Joan Flack Scholarship. The Keith Webb Memorial Scholarship was established in June, 1994 by WIU alum Dan K. Webb in memory of his father, Keith Webb. Dan Webb, a Bushnell native, completed his studies in history at WIU in 1966, and earned his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University School of Law in Chicago in 1970. Since 1985, he has been a capital partner and chair of the litigation department in the Winston and Strawn firm in Chicago. In addition to his professional duties, Webb has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Hull House Board of Directors, and Central State Alcohol and Drug Addiction Board of Directors. He was selected as the Man of the Year by both the Anti-Defamation League and the City of Hope Medical Center. He also received the WIU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992. This scholarship is intended to give assistance to deserving undergraduate students in Pre-Law. Applicants for this scholarship should: have a minor in pre-law; have a 3.4 or higher cumulative grade point average; be in good judicial standing; demonstrate strong potential for career in law. The terms of the scholarship for 2012-2013 are two awards, $1250 total, in two installments, and the scholarship is non-renewable.

The Charles H. “Chick” & Barbara Joan Flack Scholarship was established in 2011 to recognize and reward an honors student pursuing the pre-law curriculum. Chick Flack was admitted to the Illinois State Bar Association in 1954 and joined his father in the practice of law in Macomb. He was a prominent attorney in Macomb until his retirement from the firm of Flack, McRaven & Stephens in 1997. Chick was very active in community affairs and served on many boards including Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce, McDonough County United Way, YMCA, Western Illinois University Foundation, and MAIDCO. He died in April of 2011. Jo Flack is involved in many community organizations and supports many causes. She and her daughter, Teri Flack Hillyer, intend the scholarship to honor their husband and father by assisting an aspiring law student. To apply for the scholarship, applicants must: be a member in good standing of the Centennial Honors College and show intent to attend law school and practice law. Preference will be given to applicants from west central Illinois, and financial need is a consideration. This award will be for $500 for the fall 2012 semester and will be applied to the recipient’s account.

The deadline for application for both scholarships is October 19, 2012. For applications and additional information, see http://www.wiu.edu/honors/scholarships.

New Scholarships for Foreign Language Students

Are you interested in a graduate degree from a top-ranking university? Would you like to be paid to live in Paris, Madrid, Berlin, or Tokyo? Would you consider a job offer from an international corporation like Volkswagen, Nestlé, or Toyota? Or do you prefer a career with the United Nations or FIFA? Whether you already took a language in high school and want to gain advanced proficiency, wish to learn a second foreign language, or are just starting from scratch in your first, this is the perfect time to get started on the path to global citizenship. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures announces that it is now soliciting applications for the Vivian D. Kline Endowed Scholarships. The department plans to award between $2,000 and $4,000 annually to multiple high-achieving students who declare a foreign language major or second major, which complements practically any other course of study you might choose. No matter what you want to do, you can do it with more people in more places if you can speak a language besides English! An added bonus: foreign language learning sharpens your cognitive skills and leads you to a higher level of understanding of your native tongue. And not only will advanced proficiency in a language make your grad school application or resumé stand out against your competitors, it will also make you eligible for a multitude of international fellowships that are closed to the monolingual. For more information or to receive a scholarship application form please contact the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department Chair, Dr. Gary Schmidt at Schmidt2@wiu.edu.

There are nights when the wolves are silent and only the moon howls. ~George Carlin
SHA held our first general membership meeting of the year on Wednesday, October 10th at 4:00pm in the Centennial Honors College. The meeting kicked off with Dr. Gary Schmidt, Chair of the Foreign Languages Department, talking to our group about the various scholarship opportunities that his department has available for students. For more information on these, students can contact Dr. Schmidt at Schmidt2@wiu.edu. Next there were updates from the six students that SHA sponsored to attend the annual OSA Fall Leadership Conference while everyone enjoyed some Domino's pizza. All who attended the FLC learned a great deal and had wonderful experiences that they shared with the group. After our first meeting, SHA members participated in "Get Your Butts Off Our Lawn" where they cleaned up cigarette butts along the sidewalks from the Malpass Library to Waggoner Hall. We also joined W.A.V.E. for a campus clean up project in Q4lot. Other important updates: Saturday, October 20th, SHA will be cleaning up our "Adopt-a-Street". We will meet at 1:30pm that day at the corner of Lafayette Street and University Drive. The next general SHA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at 4:00pm in the Centennial Honors College. We look forward to seeing you there!