It may not be an exaggeration to state that the Centennial Honors College is becoming home to some of the very best students in the world. Consider the case of the students from the Thai Royal Academy.

In February of 2012, Dr. Rick Carter, Director of Western’s Center for International Studies, made a courtesy call at the Thailand Embassy in Washington, DC. The ambassador informed Dr. Carter of a program that brings over 50 brilliant Thai students to the United States annually. The program is called the Thai Royal Academy and is housed at the Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. The students are selected by the King and represent the best student in each of Thailand’s provinces. The Thai Royal Academy serves as a “finishing school” that enables students to transfer to the very best colleges in the United States.

At the suggestion of Dr. Carter, the Centennial Honors College contacted the administrators at Thai Royal Academy to see if it was possible to recruit some students to Western Illinois University. We were informed that it would be virtually impossible, since recruitment is by appointment only, and that such recruitment was virtually the exclusive preserve of elite liberal arts colleges and Ivy League universities. Moreover, we were told that it was highly unlikely for any institution to attract more than one student per year. Thus, for Western to attract even one great student from the Thai Royal Academy was considered the longest of long shots. Still, there was one opening on the schedule, so Dr. Carter and I decided to give it a try. On July 25, Dr. Carter and I ventured to Wolfeboro to make our pitch. We showcased the very best Western has to offer and extended an invitation for them to visit our campus.

Last November, President Jack Thomas and Dr. Carter revisited the Thai Embassy. The Thai authorities were so impressed by our efforts that the Thai Minister of Education agreed to enroll some students at Western. What a wonderful surprise!

On February 17, ten Thai Royal Scholars will arrive in Macomb to begin preparation for their studies at Western Illinois University! These students will select their own majors, live on campus, enroll in honors courses, and participate in student activities. If this works, other Thai Royal Scholars may soon enroll.

Much credit goes to President Thomas and Dr. Rick Carter for their tenacity in promoting Western Illinois University. We at the Centennial Honors College welcome our new guests and will do everything we can to facilitate a smooth transition. In the long run, everyone benefits from this unique cultural exchange.

- Richard Hardy
Welcome to the start of the spring semester! The opening of a new semester always brings with it new challenges and new opportunities. It also brings a group of students newly eligible to join the Centennial Honors College on the strength of their fine academic performance during the fall semester. The Honors College staff, under the leadership of Director Hardy and Honors Advisor Molly Homer, has been hard at work to welcome these high-achieving students to the Honors College. In a series of recruitment meetings, Dr. Hardy and Dr. Homer spoke passionately and persuasively about the benefits of joining the Honors College, and I had the chance to reflect on my own undergraduate experience as an Honors student and to encourage prospective students to explore the possibilities that an Honors curriculum can offer. Honors Student Ambassadors Ste’Phan Nolla, Christopher Fidecki, Datrese Hearn, Elizabeth Etta, and Zachary Andrew provided valuable input on life as an Honors student at Western, and as I listened to them address their peers, I was struck by common threads of enthusiasm and gratitude in their remarks. They were all enthusiastic about their Honors experiences and grateful for the opportunities that the Honors College provided them. I would like to take the opportunity both to thank these current students for their efforts in promoting the advantages of being an Honors student at WIU and to welcome the newest members of the Centennial Honors College. Best wishes to all for continued academic and personal success in 2013!

Golden Key New Member Recognition Event

On Sunday, January 27, 2013, the Western Illinois University chapter of Golden Key International Honor Society celebrated the 120 members of 2012-2013 membership class with a New Member Recognition Event. Students at the sophomore, junior, senior and graduate level whose academic records place them among the top 15 percent of their respective classes are invited to join the society, and many of the newest members are also students in the Centennial Honors College.

Chapter president Tabitha Seidel hosted the event, held in the University Union Lamoine Room, and was joined by faculty and administrators who participated in welcoming the new class of GK initiates: Dr. Richard Hardy, GK Honorary Member and Interim Director of the Centennial Honors College; Dr. Susan Martinelli-Fernandez, College of Arts and Sciences Dean and Chapter Co-Advisor; and Dr. Jennifer McNabb, Associate Director of the Honors College and Chapter Primary Advisor. Despite challenging weather conditions, twenty-five initiates and their fifty guests were able to attend the afternoon reception and ceremony. In her remarks to the initiates, McNabb noted, “This is an exciting time for our chapter, as we seek to increase our campus presence and strive to improve the ways in which we exemplify Golden Key’s three key pillars: academics, leadership, and service.” She also invited the new members to engage in their first Golden Key service project, donating winter weather clothing items (gloves, scarves, and hats) in conjunction with the upcoming Golden Key Regional Summit in Chicago, February 8-10. Dr. McNabb’s office (461 Morgan Hall) is the drop-off point; contact JLMcnabb@wiu.edu for additional details.

All Golden Key members are invited to the chapter’s spring organizational meeting: February 19, 2013 at 6 p.m. in Morgan Hall 302. Agenda items include the planning of upcoming activities and service projects as well as the nomination of a range of spring semester officer positions, including several Vice President positions, Secretary, Historian, Public Relations, and Webmaster.
Honors Faculty Profile: Jill Joline Myers

This month’s Honors Faculty Profile features Jill Joline Myers, Associate Professor and Assistant Director of the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. Professor Myers has spent nine years at Western, following a Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law. Professor Myers has served as a former state and special assistant U.S. prosecutor and a former Division Chief of the Special Investigations Division, which focused on employing wire, electronic and oral surveillance techniques to investigate major criminal organizations, drug traffickers, and terrorist activities. Her areas of expertise include Constitutional Law (1st, 4th, 5th, & 14th Amendments); privacy issues and privacy law; wire, oral and electronic surveillance technologies and applications under the ECPA and US PATRIOT Act; cyber bullying; and human rights.

Professor Myers’ teaching and research activities are many and varied. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses addressing legal issues concerning criminal justice practitioners at Western, and she regularly teaches and acts as a consultant to state and federal law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and legislative bodies including the ATF. Since the publication of Responding to Cyber Bullying: An Action Tool for School Leaders (Myers, J.J., McCaw, D.S., & Hemphill, L.S.) in 2011, she has been the invited keynote speaker at numerous events, including the National Rural Education Association’s (NREA) 103rd Annual Convention and Research Symposium in Hilton Head, SC and the Missouri Association of Rural Conference in Lake Ozark, MO.

In discussing her relationship with the Honors College, Professor Myers writes, “As a public employee for my entire professional career, I enjoy instilling a sense of personal responsibility to the community in the students. Honors students have the potential of truly making a difference in society and solving our issues. Hopefully through class discussions and content exposure, these students will be encouraged to create what can be crafted and not settle for what already exists.”

Professor Myers has offered several courses for Honors students (Information Technology and Privacy, Global Connect, and Prelude to Privacy) and is scheduled to teach a new, fully online course entitled Cyberspace Baggage in the fall of 2013, which “will examine recent case law and court ordered mandates concerning the legal and ethical issues related to information privacy in a technologically savvy society. This course will address an individual’s legal right to control the collection, use, or distribution of information about oneself held by others.”

Another upcoming course offering open to Honors students is a summer Study Abroad to Belfast, Northern Ireland: LEJA 417/517, Human Rights: A Comparison of European and U.S. Practices and Policies. She notes that the course “is designed to integrate the academic study of human rights with the living and evolving cultural, real-world needs as exposed through firsthand observation.” Contact Jill Myers for additional details.

Honors Alum Profile: Jacob Ward

Recent Western graduate Jacob Ward is featured as this month’s Honors Alum Profile. Jacob graduated from WIU with a major in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and minors in Computer Science and Security Administration.

He has just completed his second year working as an armed security officer working under contract with the Illinois National Guard, following rigorous training to be licensed by the state of Illinois. Jacob has also worked in residential, industrial, and commercial environments.

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

**JW:** I became involved with the Honors College by accepting the wonderful opportunity to live on the honors floor, where I lived for six semesters. There I met many great people, some of whom I am still friends with today. It was by making friends with Honors College students involved with SHA that I began attending on a regular basis and participating in their activities.

**Q:** WIU Honors memories you would like to share?

**JW:** Some of my favorite memories are playing Big Pink Volleyball with fellow members of the Honors College and building the SHA cardboard boat for the boat regatta in the Honors Floor lounge. Many of my greatest memories and friends came from living on the Honors Floor of Thompson Hall.
Honors Student of the Month: Elizabeth Etta

Our Honors Student of the Month is senior African American Studies and Sociology major Elizabeth Etta. Elizabeth joined the Honors College as a new transfer student to Western Illinois, in part as the result of her curiosity about chess. She recalls, “Dr. Molly Homer approached my transfer orientation group and asked if any of us would like to take a class on the game of chess. I was surprised and impressed to see such an innovative class being offered and I've been hooked on Honors College classes ever since.” Elizabeth cites Dr. Laurian Bowles from the African American Studies Department as a key mentor in her personal and intellectual growth. She says, “She is the true definition of a teacher. Her students, myself included, make it a point each semester to take one of her classes because she is available to the student, her requirements are fair, and her informal attitude makes the course material relatable and inviting.”

During her time at Western, Elizabeth has become a student leader and an effective ambassador of the Honors College. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Student Honors Association and is involved with Western’s new Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association, an honor society that recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students who have transferred to Western. She is also an Honors Mentor and an Honors Ambassador, assisting new Honors students, and served as a student orientation leader last fall. She notes, “It’s very rewarding to see those same new students get involved and make a new life here at WIU.” Additional activities and accomplishments include holding a President’s Transfer Scholarship, working for the WIU Phonathon and authoring a fundraising letter sent to the alumni of the African American Studies department, placing first with her podium presentation at last spring’s Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day, attending and presenting at a national conference, and discussing her research on WIUTV’s “15 Minutes with Jo Ann Morgan.” As a sign of the diversity of her accomplishments and interests, Elizabeth also presented an original poem at a reading at the West Central Illinois Arts Center.

Elizabeth plans to attend law school after her graduation from Western this spring. She will also be serving as a WIU nominee for a prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship, awarded to students who show leadership potential and have an interest in government or public sector service. She describes the opportunity of being a Truman Scholar candidate as beneficial in helping her refine her career goals. Elizabeth notes that although this semester promises to be a busy one, “I'm incredibly appreciative to have so many options going into the future.”

Congratulations, Elizabeth, on your many successes, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

Centennial Honors College Faculty Awards

Honors students, we need your help! Have you ever had an Honors professor or mentor who inspired you or provided invaluable assistance in a class or as you worked to complete a project or application for a scholarship or internship? Has an Honors teacher or advisor gone above and beyond your expectations in helping you achieve your goals? Now is your chance to recognize his or her contributions to your academic and personal growth at Western. Please consider nominating an Honors teacher or mentor for the inaugural Centennial Honors College Awards of Excellence in Teaching/Mentoring. Simply fill out the Nomination Form found online (http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/forms.php) or stop by the Centennial Honors College to pick up a copy of the form; return completed forms to the College or by email to Dr. Jennifer McNabb (JL_McNabb@wiu.edu). Nominations are due by March 1st, so make a nomination today!
Honors and Career Services: An Interview with Director Marty Kral

When asked about the one piece of information he wishes more WIU students knew, Career Services Director Marty Kral responds, “To start career planning earlier.” In a recent interview, Director Kral, who has worked in the Office of Career Services since 1993, answered questions about the resources available to students of the Centennial Honors College and how they can make the most of their time on campus as they plan for professional success.

Q: What do you think is the most important current trend concerning career placement?

A: Director Kral stresses the importance of relevant internships because employers want graduates to be “work ready.” He notes, “Employers have become even more selective, and if what they see on a resume does not pertain to them (and their business), they are not interested in that candidate.”

Q: What resources in the Office of Career Services might be especially helpful for students of the Centennial Honors College?

A: Director Kral points to the importance of new technologies in career preparation and the job search. “Our online registration system will allow students to create a profile and upload their resume into a resume book (by major). This is marketed to potential employers. Students will be able to view who has looked at their file and when, so that they may initiate contact.” He points to the website of the Office of Career Services, which contains job, internship, and graduate school links as well as information on resume writing, interviewing, job searching, dressing for success, and self-assessment. Fall and spring Career Fairs and a series of workshops on career-related topics also assist students.

Q: What is the one strategy that you wish WIU students took more advantage of?

A: According to Director Kral, a four-year career planning strategy is key. As early as the first year, students should begin to research various careers and gain work experience during summer break. As a sophomore, students should plan to attend Career Fairs and workshops and continue to seek out relevant work and internship experiences, and seniors should continue attending Career Fairs and workshops and begin applying and interviewing for jobs.

Q: What final advice would you like to offer students of the Centennial Honors College?

A: “Do not ever wait for anything to come to you...because it won’t. There are no guarantees; each person is solely responsible for his or her own success.”

The Office of Career Services is located in 125 Memorial Hall and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:30. Contact the office at 309-298-1838 or www.wiu.edu/careerservices for an appointment or additional information.

Call for Papers

The next Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS) Annual meeting will be on April 5-6, 2013 at Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL. The conference features both student and faculty research presentations in multiple formats, either 15-minute oral presentations or posters. The ISAS has numerous divisions: Agriculture, Anthropology and Archaeology, Botany, Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering and Technology, Environmental Science, Health Sciences and Microbiology, Physics, Mathematics & Astronomy, Science, Mathematics & Technology Education, and Zoology. Continued on page 6...

“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.”  
— John Steinbeck
Continued...Call for Papers

The deadline for submitting an abstract is February 11, 2013 at 5 p.m. In order to submit an abstract, a username and password is needed, and processing of requests for these can take two business days. Accepted abstracts are published in a Supplement to the Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science. For additional information, see http://www.il-acad-sci.org/callforpapers.aspx (the call for papers) and http://www.il-acad-sci.org/annual_meeting.aspx (details on the annual meeting). WIU

Millikin University is pleased to host the annual Student Research Conference for the Honors Council of the Illinois Region on Saturday, March 2, 2013 in Decatur, IL. The theme of the conference is theme “PERFORM: Your research. Your work. Your world.”

This HCIR conference offers honors students a collegial forum in which to develop presentation skills that will be fundamental to their professional education and careers. Most students give individual oral reports or panel presentations on completed and ongoing research. Poster presentations and arts performances are also welcome. Proposals must be submitted by February 18, 2013. For instructions on submission, please contact Interim Director Rick Hardy (RJ-Hardy@wiu.edu) or Associate Director Jennifer McNabb (JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu).

Calendar Events: February 3 — March 9

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