A central benchmark of success among the nation’s honors colleges is how well their students compete for prestigious scholarships. The most universally recognized marquee awards are the Rhodes, Truman, Goldwater, Udall, Madison, Cooke, Fulbright, and Marshall Scholarships. Other noteworthy scholarships include the Portz, Mellon, and Mitchell Scholarships.

The Rhodes is widely considered the top international scholarship. It is based upon scholarship, leadership, and physical fitness, and provides recipients an opportunity to earn an advanced degree from Oxford University in England. In 2012, Jenna Verity (Political Science major and track athlete) became Western’s first-ever Rhodes finalist. Jeffrey Liles (Biology major and track athlete) was this year’s Rhodes nominee.

The Truman is the “crown jewel” of American scholarships. Criteria include academic excellence, distinguished public service, and leadership. This year Elizabeth Etta (a double major in African American Studies and Sociology) is Western’s first-ever Truman finalist. You can read more about Elizabeth in the February newsletter, where she was featured as the Honors Student of the Month. She will compete in the final round in Chicago on March 26. Other Western nominees were Steve Wailand (Chemistry major/Pre-Law minor), Caleb Markey (Economics and Finance majors), and Michael Quigley (Political Science major).

The Goldwater is our nation’s top scholarship for math and science. In 2002, Michael C. Baxa (Physics major) became Western’s first Goldwater recipient. In 2004, Ryan T. Gordon (Physics major) won Western’s second Goldwater. Gordon is now an assistant professor in Western’s Physics Department. This year Daniel Halbe is our institution’s nominee for the Goldwater. Physics chair Dr. Mark Boley deserves special praise for recruiting and preparing all three students.

The Udall is considered the top award for environmental studies. Staci Buster (Interdisciplinary Studies major) and Joshua Yelle (Finance major/Environmental Science minor) are this year’s nominees for the Udall.

The signature award for artistic works and creative writing is the Cooke Award. This scholarship recognizes exceptional talent and is based upon financial need. Serena Stevens (Art major) was Western’s first nominee in 2012.

These are just a few of the prestigious awards for which Western’s best students can and should compete. Those interested in competing for a Fulbright Scholarship for overseas travel and research should contact Emily Gorlewski (EJ-Gorlewski@wiu.edu). Those interested in the Portz Award (honors interdisciplinary research), the Mellon Award (arts and humanities), the Madison Award (secondary social studies teachers), or the Mitchell Scholarship (study in Ireland) may contact me (RJ-Hardy@wiu.edu).

Through the support of the friends of the Centennial Honors College and the talents of its students and faculty, Western is cultivating a culture of excellence. I congratulate all of our nominees for the 2012-2013 academic year on their superlative achievements and encourage students willing to undertake the challenge of exceptional accomplishment to begin making themselves qualified for these awards.

~Rick Hardy
Notes from the Associate Director

I would like to replace my normal "Notes" with the announcement of an exciting opportunity for Honors students interested in Summer 2013 coursework (since what follows is a promotion for a course I will be teaching, perhaps it constitutes a shameless plug! Still, I cannot resist the urge to promote, as I am delighted to have the opportunity to teach my GH 299 "Witchcraft in Early Modern England" in a new, online format).

Since the early twentieth century, the topic of early modern witchcraft has proved an irresistible draw for both academic and non-academic audiences. The general facts are well known: in the period between 1500 and 1700, England and many of its continental neighbors experienced a marked rise in accusations of witchcraft, and such accusations resulted in the deaths of a number of individuals identified by neighbors and authorities as practitioners of malefic (harmful) magic. What is less well known to casual students of the subject is the range of factors that caused what some scholars have identified as the “witch craze.” Allegations of witchcraft during the early modern period were the product of a confluence of factors, ranging from social and economic tensions over resources in local communities, contestation and negotiation of gender ideals, and religious dissension during the Age of Reformation to new attempts to regulate behavior through law and the development of the early modern state.

This online GH 299, Star # 85898, will be offered during the second 4-week summer session. It will provide students with a critical understanding of early modern witchcraft (using England as a case study) through guided reading and online discussion of two types of historical texts: prominent modern interpretations of witchcraft’s causes and consequences; and sixteenth- and seventeenth-century witchcraft treatises discussing the phenomenon through contemporary perspectives. Each participant will work both collaboratively, in online discussion threads, and independently, in preparing an online presentation of a brief independent reading. All students will also form a “Virtual Village” through WesternOnline that allows them to act as characters in an early modern village. The course will conclude with mock witchcraft trials, offering participants the opportunity apply the knowledge of witchcraft and its prosecution they acquire throughout the course.

Summer, witchcraft, and Honors – a great combination! For any questions, please contact Dr. McNabb (JLMcNabb@wiu.edu).

If you are intrigued by the course but are unable to take this online offering, I have more exciting news: the course will also be offered during the first eight weeks of the fall semester on Monday afternoons, 2:00-3:40.

“They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.”

— Andy Warhol
Honors Student of the Month: Victoria Kappel

Our Honors Student of the Month is sophomore Communication Sciences and Disorders major Victoria Kappel. Victoria’s relationship with the Honors College began at freshman orientation, and she notes, “Being involved in honors and AP classes in high school, I thought it would be a great option to challenge myself academically in college.” Victoria points to Dr. Rick Hardy as a key mentor, stating, “He has instilled in me self-confidence and the belief that I can do anything I put my mind to.”

Victoria writes eloquently about one of her recent activities, connected to her service as an Honors Mentor: “In December we had a chance to volunteer for the Children’s Shopping Mall, sponsored by the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce, to kick off the holiday season. Children poured in exuberantly with lists for the special loved ones that they were going shopping for. With tables full of hardware for dad, necklaces and bracelets for mom, candles for grandma, and even some Western Illinois gear for a Leatherneck fan, there was a wide variety of gifts for anyone on their list. What was so heartfelt about this event was that children picked out presents for their loved ones all by themselves without their parents’ help, with only a ‘Personal Shopper’ by their side. These gifts were then wrapped up for free, ready to be placed right under the tree. Being a personal shopper and volunteering for this event was a humbling experience. As a Personal Shopper, I escorted young kids through the shopping mall and helped them find the perfect gift in their eyes. It brought me back to the young days of going shopping for presents, wrapping them, and putting them under the Christmas tree, waiting ever so eagerly for Christmas morning to come for everyone to open their presents.”

Victoria’s activities and awards are numerous and build on a busy and successful high school career. In addition to serving as an Honors Mentor, she is a member of Phi Eta Sigma and the WIU Student Speech Language Hearing Association and has been nominated for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is also the goalkeeper for the WIU Women’s Soccer Team, where her leadership has been recognized with a Captain in Training position. In Fall 2012, she led the Summit League in Goals Against and Goals Against Average (an impressive 0.56), building on a 2011 season in which she earned a place on the Summit League Honor Roll and was recognized as the Summit League Distinguished Scholar, the Newcomer of the Year Award, and Summit League “Defender of the Week.” Victoria plans to attend graduate school to complete a Master’s degree in Speech Pathology, after which she intends to work with either children or the elderly, while maintaining an active volunteer schedule. She describes herself as “a driven and motivated hard worker.” Her many accomplishments as a sophomore indicate the truth of that assessment. She concludes, “I enjoy sports, arts and crafts, the outdoors, nature, dancing, giving back to the community and music. I play the piano and cello. I love to make new friends and also enjoy team camaraderie. I’m very glad I’m at Western and cannot wait to see what the future holds!”

Honors Alum Profile: Nicole Maila

Recent Western graduate Nicole Maila is featured as this month’s Honors Alum Profile. Nicole graduated from WIU with a major in Math Education and is currently working as a Math Teacher at Wheeling High School, where she also serves as Head Gymnastics Coach. As recent accomplishments, Nicole puts “surviving my first semester as a first-year teacher” at the top of the list. Other achievements include winning the first gymnastics meet of the season and running the Chicago Marathon in October and qualifying for the Boston Marathon. Of her favorite Honors memories, Nicole recalls taking “Beauty Myth,” a course taught by multiple instructors including Therese Trotochaud and current faculty member Barbara Ashwood-Gegas. She notes, “I really respected everyone’s opinions and thoughts. It changed the way I think about beauty.”
Honors Faculty Profile: Dr. John Simmons

This month’s Honors Faculty Profile features Dr. John Simmons, Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Dr. Simmons has been at Western for 26 years, following a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara, from which he also earned his B.A. and M.A. (he notes, “I liked surfing”). His areas of expertise include: American Religious History; cognitive science and spiritual experience; narrative (film, books) and human consciousness; new religious movements; sociology of religion; and Christian Science and New Thought. Dr. Simmons regularly teaches Religious Studies 101 and upper-division courses, “Religion, Literature, & Film” and “Personal Transformation.”

When asked about how he became interested in teaching in the Honors College, Dr. Simmons responds, “Who wouldn’t want to teach some of the very best students on Western’s campus?” He traces his teaching history in the Honors College to the late 1990s: “I noticed how themes of religion and spirituality permeated much of popular literature and film (and also popular music). Books such as The Celestine Prophecy or The Peaceful Warrior were topping the best-seller lists; and then the story lines became the basis for popular films. I realized that narrative is a primary force in shaping human consciousness; religious or spiritual narratives have the extra power of answering profound life questions such as who are we, where did we come from, where we are going, is there meaning and purpose in living a life that ends in death, and so forth?” In consultation with Professor Thomas Helm, former Director of the Honors College, Dr. Simmons submitted a course proposal for “Religion, Ethics, and Popular Movies.” He states, “I’d have to say it was the most interesting and enjoyable course I’ve taught at Western. Honors students embraced the course themes; we explored popular movies, read inspirational novels, and the students wrote papers that showed their growing insight into the way story shapes us all.” Dr. Simmons will be offering the course again in fall 2013 on Monday afternoons, 3:30-6:00pm. “Once we get acclimated to the course themes, we will have the time to watch a current popular movie one week, and then the following week, I will introduce new material on narrative and human consciousness while we discuss past and future movies and literature. I hope you will sign up for the course. Previous Honors College students have thoroughly enjoyed this edition of GH 301; and, as should be the primary learning outcome of any worthy course in the humanities, they’ve learned to look at life in a new way.”

While not a regular reader of newspapers (“I don’t find what passes as news to be particularly inspiring. It is someone else’s story.”) or a fan of apps (“They tend to diminish the simple joy of being surprised or figuring something out by trial and error.”), Dr. Simmons has an impressive roster of recently-read books. He lists The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human by Jonathan Gottschall; The Emotional Life of Your Brain by Richard Davidson with Sharon Begley; and Infinite Reality: Avatars, Eternal Life, New Worlds, and The Dawn of the Virtual Revolution by Jim Blascovich and Jeremy Bailenson. When asked about a favorite book he recommends to others, Dr. Simmons highlights Toward a Psychology of Awakening by John Welwood.

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” — Leo Tolstoy
The annual Student Research Conference for the Honors Council of the Illinois Region took place at Millikin University on Saturday, March 2, 2013 in Decatur, IL. The theme of the conference was “PERFORM: Your research. Your work. Your world” and featured presentations from two WIU Honors students, Physics major Daniel Halbe and Biology major Zac Andrew. Zac gave a presentation entitled “Growth Rates of Leuconostoc Bacteria on Defined Growth Media vs Complex Growth Media,” and the title of Daniel’s presentation was “Performing Research in Astronomy with the Largest Radio Telescope on Earth: Remote Observations with the Arecibo Observatory.” Congratulations to Daniel and Zac for their fine projects. WIU-QC will host the meeting of the Honors Council of the Illinois Region next September.

The Honors College is proud to announce the winners of this year’s Honors Writing Prize: Lindsey Kuitse, with an essay entitled “Female Empowerment,” written for Dr. Shazia Rahman’s course on Pakistani Literature, and Sean Kincaid, whose essay “It’s Time to Abandon the Sinking Ship: Juvenile Justice Reform in America” was written for Dr. Tim Helwig’s GH 101.

The Honors College would like to announce three scholarship competitions with an application deadline of April 1. The first is the Martin Dupuis Award for Leadership, created to recognize Honors College students from historically under-represented communities who have excelled as both leaders and scholars. The selection of the Dupuis Leadership Award will be made by the Honors Council. This $1250 (non-renewable) award will be distributed in two installments, half in fall semester 2013 and half in spring semester 2014. In addition to the application form, students need to submit a resume, a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a member of the faculty, staff, or administration, and a two-page essay explaining what he or she has learned or gained from leadership activities.

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The Ernest J. Codilis Jr. Pre-Law Scholarship was created by 1973 WIU graduate Ernie Codilis, who has made available resources to award four non-renewable $5000 scholarship Spring 2013. Applicants must: be in good standing as a full-time student at Western Illinois University and in the Centennial Honors College; be actively pursuing the Honors College Pre-Law Minor; have at least a 3.7 WIU GPA; be enrolled with junior or senior standing the semester of scholarship acceptance; demonstrate solid record of extracurricular participation—leadership preferred; and demonstrate a solid record of campus and/or community service. Preference is given to majors in Political Science, and recipients will be selected by the Honors Council. Applicants need to complete an application form, to secure a minimum of one letter of recommendation, and to attach a letter of application that highlights extracurricular activities, leadership experience, campus and community service and explains how the scholarship would help in the preparation for law school.

The Cecile A. Christison Sterrett Scholarship was established in December 1984 and re-directed to the Centennial Honors College in January 2013. Cecile A. Christison Sterrett was a 1918 and 1926 WIU graduate. She died in 1983 and in accordance with the terms of her bequest, the Centennial Honors College is happy to award this non-renewable $1500 scholarship to a resident of Illinois or Missouri who: is a member of the Centennial Honors College in good standing; has a minimum 3.6 GPA; has completed the equivalent of one Honors class; demonstrates financial need and be of good moral character; and has demonstrated leadership or civic duty through activities or community service, with preference to activities in the Centennial Honors College. Applicants must submit: a completed application form; a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a WIU faculty or staff member or administrator; a letter of application highlighting your financial need, leadership and/or community service. Additional materials may be submitted.

Additional information on the awards and forms can be found at the Honors College website: http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/forms.php
Honors Advantage Rewards

Honors Students will soon be able to receive discounts at area businesses thanks to the new Honors Advantage Rewards program. Honors Advantage Rewards was created to celebrate our students’ commitment to success by partnering with area businesses that are willing to show their support of these students by giving them a discount at their establishment. Area businesses have a significant role in creating a welcoming environment for our Honors students that assists them with succeeding, and they recognize our students’ commitment to success. Alicia Steele, owner of Steele a Moment of Tranquility, states, “I was more than happy to participate in the Honors Advantage Rewards program because I recognize the effort put forth by Honors students to do their very best academically.”

Each academic year the students will receive a sticker on their WIU ID indicating that they are current Honors students. Honors students may begin picking up their identification sticker on Monday, March 18th from the Centennial Honors College. Students must bring their WIU ID card in order to receive the sticker. Area businesses who are current supporters of the Honors Advantage Rewards program are Buffalo Wild Wings, Envy, Family Video, Hampton Inn, Steele a Moment of Tranquility, Sports Corner, and the University Bookstore. These area discounts will last until July 31, 2013. More information can be found on www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/advantage.php.

“What’s the Next Step?” Honors Advantage Program

Michelle Hart, Talent Sourcer for Microsoft, presented two sessions of her program, “What’s the Next Step?” which focused on resume preparation, interviewing techniques, and networking for Honors students. Hart has almost 20 years of experience in the recruiting profession and has worked closely with businesses across a diverse range of industries including: IBM, HP, Eddie Bauer, REI, Alaska Airlines, Costco, Starbucks, Cummins Diesel, Harrah’s hotels and casinos, various healthcare agencies and currently Microsoft. According to Centennial Honors College Senior Gwendolyn Merz, “The workshop offered an insider view of the hiring process, which I found to be invaluable. Michelle had a new way to look at every step of the process, from writing a resume to interviewing, and I’m certain I’ll use every one of her tips!” An alumna of Washington State University, Hart holds a degree in Sociology, with an emphasis in Human Relations and is currently attending Colorado State University to obtain her Master’s Degree in Education with an emphasis in Human Resource Studies. Hart spends time volunteering with undergraduate and graduate students offering them career coaching workshops that include resume development, networking and interviewing skills. “What’s the Next Step?” is the first in many programs that will be offered under the Honors Advantage Programs. If you have any suggestions or would like to present, please contact Janell McGruder at JL-McGruder@wiu.edu.

When reviewing your notes before an exam, the most important will be illegible.
— First Law of Applied Terror
The Twelfth Annual Pre-Law Symposium

The Centennial Honors College hosted the Twelfth Annual Pre-Law Symposium on Monday, February 18, 2013 in the Lamoine Room of the University Union. Despite inclement weather, more than 85 students, faculty, administrators, and guests participated in the event, designed to help better prepare WIU students to embark on a career in the law. The evening began with an informal reception at which students were able to meet with recruiters from ten regional law schools: Chicago-Kent Law School, Drake University School of Law, the University of Iowa College of Law, John Marshall College of Law, Valparaiso University College of Law, Southern Illinois University School of Law, University of Illinois School of Law, Saint Louis University Law School, Washington University (St. Louis) College of Law, and University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. Students were also able to discuss career opportunities in the law with the WIU Pre-Law Advisors from the Honors College, the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, and the Departments of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and Political Science, as well as meet with the student members of WIU’s Phi Alpha Delta National Pre-law Honorary.

After a welcome from Dr. Rick Hardy and WIU President Jack Thomas, attorney Larry Eaton provided the keynote address entitled, “The Long and Winding Road.” Eaton, a WIU alumnus who received a JD from the University of Michigan College of Law and is currently an attorney with Cozen O’Connor in Chicago, reflected on his educational journey that began at WIU and discussed his career trajectory and his path to professional success. WIU Associate Vice President for Student Services Earl Bracey then served as moderator for a discussion with a panel of distinguished WIU alumni currently enrolled in law school or working as practicing attorneys: Amanda Doyle (History, ’12), Kristin Olson (Political Science, ’11), Arsenio L. Mims (Political Science, ’11), Tom O’Brien (LEJA, ’07), Alison Vawter (Communications, ’87), and John Bouslog (Business, ’80). In a lively, informative session, the panelists responded to Vice President Bracey’s questions about such issues as the factors that influenced their desire to pursue a career in law, the courses at WIU that best prepared them for law school, and their most difficult class in law school. Questions from the audience then followed.

The Honors College would like to thank all of the participants and attendees of the Pre-Law Symposium as well as all of those who supported the event. Special thanks to President Jack Thomas; Provost Ken Hawkinson; Associate Vice President for Student Services Earl Bracey; Dr. John Simmons, who provided music; Gayle Heller; Ashley Katz; Shanee Sullivan; Sodexo; and the staff of the Honors College: Patty Battles, Molly Homer, Michael Jones, Janell McGruder, Jennifer McNabb, Caitlin Salmon, and D’Angelo Taylor.
## Golden Key Updates

February was an active month for the WIU chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Chapter advisor Dr. Jen McNabb and student member Sarah Tomkinson attended the Region 5 Annual Summit in Chicago, February 8-10. Region 5, one of GK’s ten regions, is composed of chapters from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and more than 100 student members, chapter officers, and advisors attended the weekend event. Thanks to the donations of chapter members, WIU participated in the Summit’s service activity, collecting winter weather clothing to donate to those in need. The Summit prioritized education and professional development opportunities focused on GK’s three pillars of Academics, Leadership, and Service. Break-out sessions also allowed for the WIU chapter representatives to interact and network with members of other chapters.

The chapter had a business meeting on February 19 to elect officers for spring semester 2013 and to plan chapter activities. Congratulations to all of those who achieved a leadership position on the executive board!

President: Tabitha Seidel  
Vice President: Zac Andrew  
Secretary: Chelsie Forrest  
Treasurer: Brittany Peifer  
Service Director: John Johnson  
Web Master: Alexandria Zoellner  
Fund-Raising Director: Olivia Brooks  
Social Director: Katie Arand  
Historian: Sarah Tomkinson

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### Calendar Events: March 10—April 13

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<td>St. Baldrick’s 1:00-6:00pm Tanner Hall Circle</td>
<td>23rd Annual Thompson Scholar Lecture 5:00-6:30pm Sandburg Theatre</td>
<td>Distinguished Faculty Lecture 7:00pm COFAC Recital Hall</td>
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<td>Reading by poet, Kim Addonizio 7:00-8:30pm Sherman Hall Auditorium</td>
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<td>Last day to drop a class or withdraw from University</td>
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<td>10th Annual WIU Environmental Summit 9:00am-3:00pm University Union</td>
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