As we conclude yet another academic year and students pack for home, it is a good time to consider summer plans. The summer break offers everyone a wonderful respite from the pressures of attending classes, writing term papers, concluding research projects and taking examinations. It is a time to relax and recharge one’s academic batteries.

But summer also offers innumerable opportunities to explore new vistas, sharpen your mind, and prepare for your future. Here are some suggestions to enrich one’s life:

- embark on an exercise program to shed extra pounds, increase stamina, and feel better;
- learn to play a musical instrument, speak a new language or learn a new craft;
- seek summer employment or internships in areas that relate to your future vocational goals or interests;
- register for an online or summer course at WIU;
- build your vocabulary by learning a dozen or more new words a day;
- venture to new places, take in county fairs, and participate in cultural exchanges;
- attend a major league baseball game, visit an art museum or zoo;
- read some novels, short stories or history books purely for pleasure;
- engage in creative writing, try your hand at painting or photography;
- participate in communal activities, such as volley ball or softball;
- discover your inner self by meditating, practicing yoga or studying religion;
- get outdoors more often, plant some trees, cultivate a garden, build a pond, go camping, catch some fish, take long walks, enjoy the fresh air; and
- volunteer your time and talents to helping others, such as coaching youth sports or entertaining shut-ins.

The key is action. And the more you do this summer, the better prepared you will be when you return to campus next fall. The choice is yours.

The Centennial Honors College would like to recognize and express appreciation for the service of this year’s student marshals at Honors Convocation. The students who accepted the prestigious honor of serving as marshals this spring are Jessica Toops, Chloe Li, Shiloh Lueschow, Hannah Van Eendenburg, Matthew Thor, and Ste’Phan Nolla.
Notes from the Associate Director

As I complete my first year as the faculty advisor for the WIU chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society, I would like to provide a final update on the its 2012-2013 activities. The year closed with a literacy-based service event at the Macomb Public Library in recognition of Global Youth Service Day, an occasion marked by Golden Key chapters throughout the world as an opportunity for service. Our chapter’s program, “Oh, the places you’ll go,” took place on Saturday, April 26 to support the cause of literacy and education in the Macomb and surrounding area and in preparation for the Library’s summer-based children’s reading program.

The event was a tremendous success, with approximately two dozen volunteers, children, and parents in attendance for an afternoon of reading-based programming. After children received a passport to travel the world, Golden Key members took them on a global reading “tour,” with stations in Rio, London, Sydney, and Seoul. At each location, a book on the subject city/country was read aloud, and then children earned their passport “stamps” with the completion of a craft or activity: coloring, learning phrases in Korean, and constructing a paper bag “frog” to commemorate a character in one of the stories. At the end of the journey, they were able to select a book of their own to take home, generously provided by the Macomb Public Library. The event was great fun for both the Golden Key student volunteers and the children.

Giving back is one of the core values of Golden Key, and the WIU chapter seeks to organize service activities that benefit our local community, ranging from educational projects to community outreach events. The individual members contribute numerous hours to similar causes each year in hopes of meeting Golden Key’s goal of having a positive impact on local neighborhoods and society as a whole. The chapter would like to recognize and thank Service Chair John Johnson for his efforts in creating the program, Mary Friday and WIU Rotaract for their support of the project, and Dennis Danowski and the staff of the Macomb Public Library for hosting the program and assisting the chapter members in their efforts to make that impact.

The Centennial Honors College supports a culture of service. Be a force for positive change!

The Honors College would like to congratulate the winners of a trio of scholarships: Elizabeth Etta has won the Cecile A. Christison Sterrett Award; the recipient of the Martin Dupuis Award for Leadership for Honors Students from Historically Under-Represented Communities is Ste'Phan Nolla; and the winners of the Ernest J. Codilis Jr. Pre-Law Scholarship are Lindsey Posmanick, Michael Quigley, Samantha Morrow, and Alli Reed.
Congratulations to Spring 2013 Honors Scholars

Victoria Alao
Kayla Anderson
Mark Anderson
Zachary Andrew
Genc Arifi
Kevin Bauer
Matthew Bauer
Melissa Baughman
Meredith Bertels
Lauren Betts
Layne Beuseling
Sarah Blaase
Hannah Bradshaw
Andrew Brown
Matthew A. Brown
Angela Castello
Evan Caughie-Petcher
Denis Chapan
Hayleigh Covella
Megan Crawford
Janel Cross
Joshua Davis
Ashley Doan
Matthew Drendel
Brandon Emerson
Elizabeth Etta
Kaitlyn Foley
Amanda Friel
Samantha Goetz
Jessica Gonzalez

Miranda Graham
Holly Grasch
Elizabeth Greenwood
Joseph Gregorio
Amanda Greska
Emily Hart
Taylor Herrick
Stephanie Holda
Daniel Honeyman
Rikki Johnson
Dana Jones
Kellie Julius
Diane Kasper
Catherine Kerperien
Nicole Kieffer
Ethan Knight
Samantha Koch
Sarah Lewis
Danielle Marvel
Danielle McCauley
Meagan McWhirter
Abigail Meads
Katelyn Miller
Steven Moran
Andrew Nelson
Brian Olson
Morgan Osness
Megha Patel
Andrea Patten
Corinne Pearsce

Rodolfo Perez
Lindsey Posmanick
Alicia Pugh
Jeffrey Riggs
Alexander Robinson
Lindsey Roe
Mark Schneider
Jasmine Scott
Emily Seckler
Rachael Setlock
James Shetler
Elleece Smith
Rachel Steibing
Kimberly Stickelmaier
Jordan Switzer
Jamela Thompson
Alycia Thurston
Éric Tietz
Kati Tunget
Justin Valdez
Luke Vander Pluym
Jeffrey Veal
Arturo Vera
Kelsea Visalli
McKayla Weis
Viola Wonsey
Jeffery Woodyatt
Megan Wyffels
Lauren Zeman
James Zweep

Honors Convocation Speaker: Andrea Patten

The Spring 2013 Honors Convocation Speaker is Andrea Patten, who is graduating Summa Cum Laude with a major in Communication and minors in Journalism and Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration. She enrolled at Western Illinois University in fall 2009 after graduating from East Peoria High School in East Peoria, Illinois. In the fall she will be attending the University of Alabama to seek a Master’s Degree in Advertising and Public Relations.

At Western, Andrea has compiled an exemplary academic record. She was the recipient of the Thompson Scholarship, was on the Dean’s List every semester, and is the Communication Department Scholar for Spring 2013. Andrea has been inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Golden Key International Honour Society. She credits Professor Stacey Macchi with whom she has worked since a freshman public speaking course for “pushing with me to be better in everything I do.”

Additionally, Andrea has devoted countless hours to campus and civic activities. She served as the Student Government Association’s Director of Student Services, a Peer Mentor for our First-Year Experience program, President of the Communication Student Society, Vice President of Delta Zeta Sorority, and Chair of Panhellenic Greek Week. It is easy to understand why she was named the 2012 Panhellenic Greek Council’s Woman of the Year. Andrea’s Convocation address is entitled “There’s Always Room for Change” and focuses on the importance of remembering the past while striving for the future.

Congratulations, Andrea, on your selection as Speaker!
Honors Alum Profile: Emilia Smith

Emilia Smith is May’s featured Honors alumna. Emilia majored in Agricultural Science at Western. Following her graduation in Spring 2011, she attended graduate school at WIU Quad Cities and obtained a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Zoo and Aquarium Studies.

When asked about her involvement with the Honors College, Emilia recalls her membership in Phi Eta Sigma. She notes that she worked during her time at school and remembers, too, the heavy course load that sometimes kept her from participating in extracurricular activities, although she continues, “I wish I could come back and do it all over again!”

Since leaving Western, Emilia has had several professional successes. She is currently seeking a full-time position in her field of study, but she cites a recent internship at the Niabi Zoo in the Quad Cities as key in her professional development, stating, “it gave me a lot of hands-on experience with exotic animals that helped me further my abilities after finishing my studies. It gave me a chance to work one on one with animals and the staff that will better my chances of succeeding when I do find a job in my field of study.”

Q: WIU Honors memories you would like to share?

ES: I don’t know that I have just one or two specific memories. I would have to say that the whole time I attended WIU it was a fantastic experience, and WIU will always be like a second home to me.

Honors Student Profile: Josh Davis

The subject of this month’s student profile is Spring 2013 Centennial Honors College Scholar Josh Davis. Josh is a senior Mathematics major, with minors in Physics and Computer Science. He is graduating summa cum laude with Upper Division Honors as well as the distinction of being named the Department of Mathematics Department Scholar.

Josh’s impressive achievements at Western have been many and varied. Josh is an active member of Phi Eta Sigma and recently placed first for the second consecutive year in the Department of Mathematics poster competition at the Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day with a poster titled, “Symmetry Groups.” Josh came to WIU on scholarship on the men’s swimming/diving team and completed four seasons as a Leatherneck, earning numerous awards for his successes as a student athlete. Among other honors, in November 2010 and again in October 2011, Josh was named the Papa John Scholar Athlete of the Week, and in both 2011 and 2012, he earned the Summit League Winter/Spring Academic All-League Selection—Distinguished Scholar selection. He was voted Most Dedicated in spring 2010 and 2011 by his teammates. He cites his biggest sporting achievement as getting the top ten times in school history in the 400 Individual Medley (in 2010) and the 200 Breaststroke (in 2013). This year Josh finished in the top 16 in both respective events at the Summit League Swimming and Diving Championships and was

Continued on next page...
Honors Faculty Profile: Seán Jenkins

This month’s Honors Faculty Profile features Dr. Seán Jenkins of the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Jenkins has been at Western for 14 years, following a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and the completion of B.A. and M.A. degrees from Eastern Illinois University in Environmental Biology. He regularly teaches a wide range of courses including “Fire Ecology,” “Plant Systematics,” “Plant Ecology,” “Wetland and Aquatic Plants,” “Ecological Techniques,” “Advanced Ecological Techniques,” and “Introduction to Plant Biology.”

Dr. Jenkins’s areas of expertise include plant ecology and taxonomy, dendrochronology, community ecology, and anthropogenic fire and its interactions with topography on species diversity, community composition and structure, and ecosystem dynamics. His current research involves Mississippi River ecology, the influence of prescribed burning and white-tailed deer browsing on the regeneration of oaks and other hardwood species, and turtle community dynamics and habitat factors influencing occupancy in the New Crystal Lake Sportsmen Club, Gulfport, IL. Since 2008, Professor Jenkins has been a contributing author of five publications, featured in American Midland Naturalist, Northeastern Naturalist, and Herpetological Review.

When asked about how he became interested in working with students in the Honors College, Dr. Jenkins responds, “Each year faculty members give presentations of potential research projects in their labs to the Honors students in the department in doing research in your lab. The students then approach the faculty member if they are interested. I have also had students approach me about research after having one of my classes.”

Professor Jenkins subscribes to National Geographic, Time, Newsweek, and Smithsonian magazines. He lists Forgotten Fires: Native Americans and the Transient Wilderness by Omer Stewart and 1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus by Charles C. Mann as recent reads, and he recommends Norman Maclean’s Young Men and Fire (non-fiction) and A River Runs Through It (fiction).
Student Honors Association News

The final SHA meeting of the semester took place on Friday, April 19th. Members voted on some major changes in the composition of the executive board number, reducing the number of positions to create greater efficiency. SHA voted to combine the Secretary, Journalist, and Web Designer positions, the Treasurer and Fundraising positions, and the Publicity, Programming, and Social positions, and an election for the new E-Board followed.

The officers of the Student Honors Association Executive Board for the 2013-2014 school year are:

President: Datrese Hearn
Vice President: Tyler Czarnecki
Secretary: Tierra Valentine
Treasurer: Grant Bachner
Public Relations Chair: Annabelle Borota
Service Chair: Brian Wehde
SGA Senator: Patrick Hostert

Congratulations to the new officers, and best wishes for a great summer and a productive term in office next year!

Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day

The Centennial Honors College was the proud host of the 2013 Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day, which included student presentations and activities on Tuesday, April 16, and Wednesday, April 17. The high quality of the research projects and performances presented attests to the dynamism of undergraduate achievement at WIU. This year’s event featured 197 student participants, mentored by 88 faculty members and representing 29 academic disciplines.

Student presentations judged to demonstrate excellence received special awards supported by the WIU Foundation and the deans of Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Services, Business and Technology, Fine Arts and Communication, and the University Libraries. Poster Presentation winners were Marina Small, a junior biology major from Macomb, who worked with Assistant Professor Andrea Porras-Alfaro on her project, "Survey of Thermophilic Fungi in Western Illinois Grain Elevators" (first place); Brian Knecht, a senior geology major from Macomb, who worked with Assistant Professor Thomas Hegna on his project, "First CT-Scan Reconstruction of Graephonus, A Late Carboniferous Whip Spider (Arachnida: Amblypygi) from Coseley, Staffordshire, UK." (second place); and Jeremy Gianonnone, a senior chemistry major from Macomb, who worked with Assistant Professor Jin Jin and Instructor Shaozhong Zhang on his project, "Synthesis and Study of Novel Macrocycles."

Podium Presentation winners were Jennifer Mitchell, a senior English major from Macomb, who worked with Assistant Professor Rebekah Buchanan, on her project, "Employing Media in Pre-Reading Strategies" (first place); Zachary Andrew, a senior biology major from East Moline, who worked with Professor Scott Holt, on his project, "Leuconostoc Bacteria on Defined Growth Media vs. Complex Growth Media" (second place); and John Johnson, a junior political science major from Macomb, who worked with Assistant Professor Greg Baldi on his project, "The German Pirate Party: Post-Materialist Politics in the 21st Century" (third place). Andrea Owens, a senior music major from Martinint, IL, won first place in the Performance category. She worked with Professor Randall Faust, on her project, "Performing on Natural Horn and Modern Horn: How Music Was Written for Each Continued on next page...
Continued... Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day

Instrument and What Elements
Both Instruments Bring to
Performance.”

Alex Heuer, featured in last
month’s "With Honors"
Honors Alum Profile, served as
the distinguished speaker at
Tuesday evening’s opening
ceremonies. Alex, who works as
a Producer at St. Louis Public
Radio for "St. Louis on the Air"
and "Cityscape" and has won
regional and national awards
for his reporting and
producing, gave a talk titled,
"Undergraduate Research: An
Essential Public Service," in
which he discussed the
opportunities and benefits of
undergraduate research.

Undergraduate Research
Day also offered the
opportunity to celebrate the
winners of the first Centennial
Honors College Awards of
Excellence. Professor Seán
Jenkins of the Department of
Biological Sciences was selected
for the Award of Excellence in
Mentoring (and he is also
featured as this month’s
Honors Faculty Profile on page
5). In the words of his
department chair, Professor
Jenkins “is indefatigable and
has high expectations of his
students, who really appreciate
the attention that they get and
deserve.” Honors student
Jamela Thompson, who
ominated Professor Jenkins
for the award, agreed, noting,
“My undergraduate research
experience changed my life,
thanks to the guidance of Dr.
Seán Jenkins. He is the ideal
role model and mentor for
anyone wishing to pursue work
in field ecology. He held me to
a high standard and work ethic,
which forced me to push
further as a scientist, student,
and individual.” Professor
Jenkins has supervised five
Honors students, two of whom
have gone on to graduate
school, and he has supervised
poster projects at Thomas E.
Helm Undergraduate Research
Day as well as successful
student applications for
Centennial Honors College
Research Grants and the
College of Arts and Sciences
Undergraduate Research and
Creative Activity Grants. He is
currently advising two more
Honors students.

Professor Jill Myers of the
School of Law Enforcement
and Justice Administration
received the Excellence in
Teaching award. In the words
of her faculty recommender,
Professor Myers “has an
enthusiasm for teaching, and
she is continually thinking of
ways to promote student
learning through creative and
innovative teaching activities,”
particularly with regard to
technology. Honors student
Bethany Jackson, who
ominated Professor Myers for
the award, praised her as an
outstanding teacher, “full of
insight and wisdom” who
“made learning interesting” and
whose class “had a fun, upbeat
vibe.” Bethany said, “I enjoyed
every minute of her class,” and
described Professor Myers as a
good listener, noting “She
always wanted feedback and
valued others’ opinions.”
Professor Myers’s service to the
students of the Honors College
demonstrates a consistent
commitment to excellence in
Honors teaching and curricular
development; Professor Myers
has supervised a dozen In-

Course Honors projects,
developed four new Honors
courses, taught multiple
sections of those courses, and
supervised student
presentations and publications
at WIU as well as state and
regional conferences. Her
connections to the Honors
College extend beyond the
classroom as well, as she has
served as an Honors diplomat,
a member of the Honors
Council, advised Phi Alpha
Delta, the pre-law honors
society, and mentored Honors
students who participate in the
annual moot court competition
held in Washington D.C.

Congratulations to
Professors Jenkins and Myers
and to student nominators
Jamela Thompson and Bethany
Jackson. Congratulations, too,
to all of the students and
faculty mentors who made this
year’s Thomas E. Helm
Undergraduate Research Day a
success!
Caitlin always offered a smiling face to anyone entering the Honors College. Her knowledge of computers and graphic art provided just the right touches to our newsletters, brochures, and other visual displays. What I most admired was the way Caitlin worked events (football games, undergraduate research days, pre-law symposia, etc.) in search of just the right photos. She has a flare for capturing just the right moment and subjects. Her outgoing personality and creative artistry will be greatly missed.

--Rick Hardy

Caitlin has now worked for the Honors College for 4 years, the first two years as a student assistant and the last two years as a graduate assistant. Offering Caitlin a position in the Honors College was one of the best decisions we ever made. She's seen a lot of changes in those 4 years, and I'm thankful she was able to put up with us and me, particularly, through those times. What I've been the most impressed with besides her personality, is her "dependability." I know the office is in good hands if everyone else has to be away. Caitlin can take care of things! When she sees an opportunity to help out or fill in, she will arrange her schedule so that she is able to do so. Of course, she may write a note to herself on her hand so she remembers. I'm going to miss her bunches and bunches and look forward to seeing her on her wedding day next year!

--Patty Battles

I wish you all the future happiness your heart can handle. While I will certainly miss your amazing-ness around here, I am really looking forward to seeing all of the wonderful things that life has in store for you after WIU. Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for a successful and fulfilling career, whatever you decide to do!

--Michele Aurand

I really think she should just stay and get another Master’s degree so she wouldn't have to leave. That's my quote.

--Molly Homer

I would like to offer my deepest thanks to Caitlin for all of her work with me during the past year, particularly with regard to "With Honors." The issues of this year’s newsletters have been my vision, but they were made reality only by virtue of Caitlin’s remarkable talents. I will miss her good humor, her infectious laughter, and her generosity of spirit. She has been a ray of sunshine, and I wish her the very best as she moves into an exciting new phase of her life!

--Jen McNabb

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

-Irish Blessing