Laurels and Hardy

It has been a privilege to serve as the interim director of the Centennial Honors College this past year. I have been blessed to work with a highly professional staff, supportive Honors Council, and many outstanding honors faculty and gifted students. I also appreciate the sage advice of previous honors directors and current deans, and the support of many fine people in the Admissions Office, Foundation Office, and Office of Student Services.

As this academic year draws to a close, it is also time to reflect on the many activities of the Centennial Honors College. Here is snapshot of our most significant accomplishments in the 2011-2012 academic year.

-Centennial Honors Scholarships. The new Centennial Honors Scholarships have enabled the Honors College to recruit 25 of the very best students in the state and region. Each award covers the cost of tuition, fees, and residence hall rooms.

-New Honors Courses. During the period of review, the Centennial Honors Council approved eight new courses—GH 101 (1), GH 299 (4), GH 301 (1), and GH 302 (2).

-Mock Presidential Election. The Honors College took the lead in organizing the 2011 “The Road to the White House Starts at Western Illinois University”—the nation’s largest and most elaborate student-run simulation in the nation. The event took place in 10 evening sessions over three weeks and engaged several thousand students, faculty, and staff across the entire campus.

-Continuation Day Celebration. The Honors College also assumed a leading role in organizing and promoting the federally mandated U.S. Constitution Day observances. This year’s theme was “The Constitution and the Fourth Amendment.” LEJA Professors Jill Myers and Todd Lough delivered a campus presentation. Over 100 students attended the event in the Union’s Sandberg Theatre.

-External Scholarship Nominations. In 2012, the Honors College nominated Ms. Lindsey Posmanick for the Harry S. Truman Foundation Award, Ms. Serena Stevens for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Award, Ms. Staci Buster for the Udall Foundation Award, and Ms. Jenna Verity for the Rhodes Foundation Award. Ms. Verity became Western’s first-ever finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. Continued on page 2...

Honors Convocation Speaker

Sarah Noack is from Eureka, IL. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication with a minor in Music Business.

Honors College Scholar

Ziyad Al-Mutairi is from Evanston, IL. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Political Science.
**Congratulations to the 2012-2013 Scholarship Winners!**

**Sophomore Honors Scholarships:** Juliana Goodman, Paris Hamm, Allison Hoyle, Megan McGlone, Kellie Raddatz

**Junior Honors Scholarships:** Kara Chicoine, Samantha Morrow, Elizabeth Peregrine, Haley Pfaffe, Shelby Rogers, Jordan Spaciel, Jessica Toops, Steven Wailand

**Senior Honors Scholarships:** Andrew Brown, Denis Chapan, Joshua Davis, Taylor Herrick, Sarah Lewis, Anginette Parsons, Assanatou Sow, Alyse Thompson

**Study Abroad Scholarships:** Crystal Soo-Jung Cho Jones, Jasmine Scott, and Jessica Toops

**Martin Dupuis Leadership Award:** This award recognizes Honors College students from historically under represented communities who have excelled as both leaders and scholars. This year’s recipient is Alicia Pugh.

**Ernest J. Codilis Jr. Pre-Law Scholarship:** This scholarship goes to three Honors College students in the Pre-Law minor with a high GPA. The students receive $5000 for the spring semester 2012. This year’s recipients are Startlet Baker, Lindsey Posmanick, and Jenna Verity.

**Director’s Note Continued:**

**CHC says goodbye to Mike Godard & hello to Jennifer McNabb**

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**Pre-Law Symposium.** Nearly 100 students attended the Eleventh Annual Pre-Law Symposium. Guest speaker was attorney Matt Bills, distinguished alumnus and former WIU student body president. Four recent WIU graduates who are currently attending law school served on a panel discussion.

**Undergraduate Research Day.** The Annual Undergraduate Research Day was on Wednesday, April 18 in the Grand Ballroom and adjacent meeting rooms. Hundreds of undergraduates from 21 different departments participated in poster, podium, and performance presentations. All participants received certificates from President Thomas and the top three podium and poster winners were presented monetary awards.

**Quad Cities Freshmen Honors Cohort.** WIU has approved a freshmen honors cohort for the Quad Cities campus. This program will admit 30 honors freshmen to the Quad Cities Honors Program. Students enrolled will be awarded “commitment” scholarships and be required to take general education and honors courses during their freshmen and sophomore years.

**Exploration of Undergraduate Think-Tank.** The Honors College has been authorized to establish the “Presidents’ Institute”—the nation’s first honors college “think tank.” The newly proposed institute will serve as an outlet for creative thinking and undergraduate publishing.

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**Associate Directors of the Centennial Honors College**

Recently, Dr. Mike Godard, our Associate Director of the Honors College, accepted a position at the University of Central Missouri. Beginning in July, he will become Chair of UCM Department of Nutrition & Kinesiology. We will miss Mike’s leadership, positive attitude, and engaging personality. Good luck Mike, and thanks for all you have done to promote the Honors College and Western Illinois University.

Beginning on August 16, Dr. Jennifer McNabb, Associate Professor of History, will assume the duties of Associate Director of the Honors College. Dr. McNabb has earned a solid reputation as a classroom teacher and a published scholar, and has garnered many campus-wide awards. She also brings considerable experience with the Honors College, serving on the Honors Council, teaching honors courses, and supervising numerous honors papers and theses. Welcome aboard, Jennifer.
**Undergraduate Research Day**

The 2012 Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day held on April 18th was a tremendous success! There were 303 student participants in total (188 poster presentations, 44 podium presentations, and 1 performance presentation). Twenty-eight disciplines were represented at this year’s event. Congratulations to all of the student presenters and thank you to the 102 faculty mentors that were so instrumental to the success of this year’s Undergraduate Research Day.

To see all of this year’s presentation abstracts, go to [http://wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/research_day/2012abstracts.php](http://wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/research_day/2012abstracts.php)

To see all of this year’s award winners, go to [www.wiu.edu/honors](http://www.wiu.edu/honors) and click the first link underneath the main photos.
Congratulations to the Spring 2012 Honors Scholars!

Ziyad Al-Mutairi     Stephanie Graber     Katrin Nava
Ryan Ashby           Paul Gustek        Sarah Noack
Starlet Baker        Kandice Hammer     Charity Otte
Christopher Bateman  Sharon Herrington  Carly Jo Parchert
Amy Bednarko         Matthew Hiller     Mary Pearl
Cory Benhart         Kenneth Holik      Rodolfo Perez
Jonathon Bilotti     Dakota Horn        Chelsea Peterson
Jessica Boyle        Sierra Horras      Trevor Popkin
Antonio Brennan      Ethan Ivey         Bartlomeij Redlinski
Molly Brockman       Victoria Jacobsen   Kevin Roberts
Memory Cain           Kelby Jasmon       Ryan Schmidt
Kelsey Campbell      Stacy Jones         Jessica Schnaiter
Abby Chien           Manato Kaisho      Crystal Sewell
Valerie Corey        Caitlin Kanvik     Cassandra Smith
Sean Crowe           Kelly Keating       Megan Soger
Hayley Dallman       Tracy Kocinski     Brooke Stittleburg
James Feliksik       Brady Lavin        Berkay Surmeli
Bradley Fenton       Elizabeth Leonard   Jenna Verity
Matthew Fischer      Jeffrey Liles       Ryan Washburn
Shaw Fitzpatrick     Jordan Liles       Nick Waterman
Rebecca Gallico      Marlaina Liskey    Arianne Williams
Jacqueline Galloway  Janet Lopez        Joshua Wood
Christine Gardner    Joseph Lucas        Gregory Wooley
Allison Gilbert      Rebecca Lutz        Zachary Gould
Zachary Gould        Heidi Mekalson     Stephanie Graber

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Have a great summer vacation from all of us at the Honors College!