As the Centennial Honors College embarks on a new phase of promoting academic excellence, it is important to reflect on our history and pay homage to the many dedicated professionals who made this institution possible.


Each director was a respected scholar and educator. Kirk (Ph.D., Michigan State University) was an esteemed professor of urban history; Kernek (Ph.D., Cambridge University in England) was a well published expert on European diplomatic history; Stiffler (Ph.D., University of Chicago) taught philosophy and filled many administrative roles; Jutta Helm (Ph.D., University of North Carolina) was a political scientist who specialized in comparative European politics; Klasner (Ph.D., Michigan Tech) was a first class geologist; Tom Helm (Ph.D. University of Chicago) was a popular philosophy professor; and Bill Knox (Ph.D. University of Michigan), is a well published English professor who remains actively engaged in campus life.

Thanks largely to Tom Helm’s leadership, in November 1999, the college’s name was changed to the Illinois Centennial Honors College (commemorating the 100th anniversary of Western Illinois University) and the office was moved from the 5th floor of the Malpass Library to its present location on the second (ground) floor. In 2004, “Illinois” was dropped from the title, making it the “Centennial Honors College.”

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About the Pre-Law Symposium

The 11th Annual Pre-Law Symposium will be held on February 20 in the Lamoine Room of the University Union. The symposium will begin at 5pm with an informational reception, followed by a keynote address at 6pm from Matthew Bills, a WIU alum and attorney with Grippos and Elden in Chicago. The last event of the symposium is a panel discussion at 6:20 pm on how to prepare for law school. Panelists include WIU alums Jamie Mitchell (2L at SMU), Amber Michlig (3L at NIU), Jamie Hunzinger (3L at Hamline), and Brad Rigdon (December graduate from SIU). All WIU students who are interested in law school are encouraged to attend.

Director’s Note Continued...


Dr. Molly Homer (Ph.D., University of Illinois) became the college’s first, full-time academic advisor in 2003. Dr. Homer, among the most popular and well-known academics on campus, assists in virtually every aspect of the honors college—student recruitment, advising, communication, scholarship selection, and record keeping.

However, the constant among all the personnel changes is Ms. Patty Battles, the Centennial Honors College exemplary office manager. With the exception of Dr. Kirk, Ms. Battles has worked with (and trained) each and every director, acting director, associate director, advisor, and staff member of the Honors College. She is the proverbial glue that holds the operation together.

Others who served in various staff or administrative positions over the years were Helen Meek, Norma Markert, Terri Coplan, Linda Tribbey and Pam Brown. Quad Cities Coordinators included Therese Kiley and Ann Walsh. And Rita Creger served as the Coordinator for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Besides Ms. Battles and Dr. Homer, our current staff includes: Dr. Marcia Carter, our Quad Cities Honors Coordinator; Ms. Michele Aurand, the Coordinator of Interdisciplinary Studies; Ms. Janell McGruder, our Office Support Specialist; Mr. Michael Jones, our Development Officer; Ms. Caitlin Salmon, our Graduate Assistant; and Dr. Michael Godard, our newest Associate Director.

Finally, we are indebted to the scores of outstanding faculty who develop and teach honors courses, and to the civic-minded alumni and benefactors who provide scholarship funding for deserving young scholars.
About Undergraduate Research Day

The Undergraduate Research Day provides a public, university-wide forum for undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity. Students from all academic disciplines are encouraged to submit their faculty mentored research, scholarship, or creative activity.

Each student or group of students that participates in Undergraduate Research Day has at least one faculty mentor that aids in their project. The student or group of students creates a poster or podium presentation to display their research.

The 2012 Undergraduate Research Day will take place on April 18th in the University Union in several rooms including: the Grand Ballroom, Springfield, Kaskaskia, Fox, Vandalia, & Lincoln Rooms.

Welcoming a New Associate Director, Mike Godard

Mike Godard is an Associate Professor of Exercise Science in the Department of Kinesiology and Associate Director of the Centennial Honors College at Western Illinois University. He received his undergraduate degree with honors in exercise science at Castleton State College in Vermont, his master's degree in exercise physiology from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY and earned his Ph.D. from Ball State University in Human Bioenergetics. He has served on the faculties of the University of Southern Maine, University of Kansas, and since 2006 at Western Illinois University.

Mike is also currently the President of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Midwest Chapter that includes Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. He is also a fellow of ACSM and has been very involved at the national level serving on numerous committees and diversity efforts throughout the years. Mike is routinely involved with in-class honors projects and has chaired honors thesis projects since arriving to Western Illinois University. He serves as a reviewer for numerous peer-review journals and has published over 30 research articles that have appeared in a number of professional journals. Additionally, he has acquired nearly $500,000 in grant funding to support his interdisciplinary research. In January 2012, he became the Associate Director of the Centennial Honors College. His primary duties are to work with students in the Student Honors Association (SHA) and publishing the Honors College Newsletter. Additionally, he works collaboratively with the Director on program development, assessment and other Honors initiatives. Mike is a native of South Burlington, Vermont. He and his wife, Kathryn, have two boys (Grant and Lance). In his spare time he coaches the YMCA Dolphins Swim Team and is an avid exerciser and enjoys outdoor adventures with his family.

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."
- Thomas Jefferson
The Student Honors Association held elections for officers on Thursday February 9th. Here are the election results:

- **President**—Zac Andrew
- **Vice President**—Katie Kerperien
- **Treasurer**—Andrew Brown
- **Secretary**—Megha Patel
- **Service Chair**—Paris Hamm
- **Social Chair**—Hayley Delia
- **Programming Chair**—Andrew Thompson
- **Web Design**—Angela Castello
- **Publicity Chair**—Giovanni Cuellar
- **Fundraising Chair**—Liz Etta
- **Journalist**—Assanatou Sow
- **SGA Liaison**—Steve Wailand

Look for exciting plans coming from SHA soon!

Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.
John D. Rockefeller