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U.S. Constitution Day Observances. The Honors College again led the way in organizing and promoting the federally mandated Constitution Day celebration on September 17 in the Malpass Library. The event featured a panel discussion on “Freedom of the Press,” while 64 honors students displayed research posters in the Garden Lounge.

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Pre-Law Symposium. The Honors College hosted the 13th Annual Pre-Law Symposium on February 17, 2014 in the Multicultural Center. Despite a major winter storm and the cancellation by our keynote speaker, eight law school recruiters were in attendance. The panel of five distinguished alumni offered insights into law school preparation, law school courses, and legal opportunities. President Thomas also spoke. About 120 students and faculty attended.

Articulation Agreements. In spring 2014, the Centennial Honors College collaborated with Dr. Ron Williams and Dr. Joe Rives to conclude an Articulation Agreement with Highland Community College. The agreement will foster a smooth transition for honors transfer students. We are currently negotiating similar articulation agreements with Rock Valley Community College and Sauk Valley Community College.

Sponsored University Lecture. The Centennial Honors College co-sponsored (with the Departments of Mathematics and Economics & Decision Sciences) a public lecture by renowned scholar Dr. Pradeep Dubey, entitled “Game Theory, Economics, and Matching Donors and Recipients of Organs,” in the Multicultural Center on March 18, 2014. Dr. Dubey earned his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Cornell University and is Professor of Economics at the University of New York at Stony Brook. Over one hundred students and faculty attended this informative presentation.

Nominations for Prestigious National Scholarships. During the academic year, the Honors College nominated three students for the Rhodes Scholarship (Josh Davis, Jeff Liles, and Michael Quigley); three students for the Truman (Steve Wailand, Datrese Hearn, and Ashley Luke), three students for the Goldwater (Tariq Ahmad, Tyler Czarnecki, and Hannah Drake); one student for the Lagrant (Devin Johnson); and one student for the Cooke (Juliana Goodman). Juliana Goodman, an English major and a member of the Centennial Honors College, is Western’s first-ever finalist for this award. Cooke winners will be announced later in May.

Laurels & Hardy

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program review of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP). The Provost accepted our recommendation that ISP be transferred to the BGS/Distance Learning program under the direction of Dr. Rick Carter. The program is still housed in the Honors College until the transition is completed in August 2014.

New Honors Courses Approved. The University Honors Council approved 10 new honors courses, representing a wide range of subjects. Additionally, many of the new courses developed include opportunities for both domestic and international travel.

Mock Trial Team. The Honors College offered administrative and financial assistance to the WIU Mock Trial Team this past year. The team competed at the Quincy University Invitational in Quincy, Illinois in November 2013; the Central College Invitational in Pella, Iowa on January 24-26, 2014; and the Regional Finals competition at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana on February 21-23, 2014.

New QC Honors Curriculum. In fall 2013, the Honors Council voted to end the current “portfolio-based” honors program at the QC campus and replace it with an “in-course-based” program to unify students’ honors experiences on both campuses. Also a QC representative, Assistant Professor Rene Noppe, was added to the Honors Council.

Presidents Institute Reorganized. The Centennial Honors College reorganized the Presidents Institute—“The Nation’s Premier Student Think Tank”—as a registered student organization, replete with by-laws and elected student leaders. This change 1) enabled the institute to apply for student activity funding, beginning in fall 2014, and 2) enabled the institute to be a truly student-centered think tank. The Presidents Institute has published blogs, assisted in research papers, and has broadcast regularly on a local radio station.

Undergraduate Research Day. The Centennial Honors College again hosted the annual Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day on April 16, 2014. Ms. Anne Millen, a 2008 WIU honors graduate (Biology major/Chemistry Minor) delivered the keynote address: “Reflections from an Early Career Research Scientist.” Ms. Millen is an Assistant Scientist at DuPont Nutrition and Health in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 154 Poster Presentations, 25 Podium Presentations, and 5 Performance Presentations. More than 215 students participated in the event, up from 197 in 2013.

New Honorary Societies. The Honors College chartered two new honorary societies: the WIU Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association, a national honorary for community college transfer students, was formed in fall 2013; the WIU Tau Sigma Honorary, a national organization for transfer students, was formed in spring 2014.

Centennial Honors Scholarships. The Centennial Honors College continued to assist Admissions and the WIU Foundation in recruiting students for the Centennial Honors Scholarships. To date, 39 students with ACT scores of 32 or above (99th percentile) and G.P.A. of 3.5+/4.0 have accepted Centennial Honors Scholarships and have enrolled for fall 2014.

Scholarship Event. The Centennial Honors College hosted its first Scholarship Extravaganza on Friday, April 25 at the American Legion in Macomb. Benefactors danced to the music by the Endnotes, participated in a silent auction, and enjoyed good food and favorite beverages. All proceeds are earmarked for the Centennial Honors College’s Scholarship Fund.

At the conclusion of this semester, Dr. Jennifer McNabb, the Associate Director of the Honors College, will return full-time to the classroom. It will be the Honors College’s great loss and the History Department’s great fortune. Jen is a class act. Over the past two years, Jen has brought enormous energy and enthusiasm to our program. She has served as the editor of this newsletter, adding many new features, such as the Alumni of the Month, Honor Student of the Month, and Honors Faculty of the Month. As faculty advisor to Golden Key, Jen has transformed a dormant chapter into a vibrant, award-winning chapter. She chaired the 30th Anniversary Committee, initiated two new Undergraduate Research Day Awards (one for teaching and one for mentoring), regularly taught honors courses, served as an ex-officio member of the Honors Council, and assisted in all honors events, from new student orientations to Honors Convocations. It is easy to understand why Jen is one of the most popular and highly decorated academicians on this campus. She is destined for greater things, and we wish her well.

–Rick Hardy, Director
The Centennial Honors College would like to recognize and express appreciation for the service of this year’s student marshals at the Honors Convocation. The students who accepted the prestigious honor of serving as marshals this spring are Krista Glass, Joseph Goetz, Sadie Keefauver, Sherrise Linton, Tuesdai Perry, and Josh Yelle.
Our Honors Student of the Month for May is Spring 2014 Centennial Honors College Scholar Shiloh Lueschow, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Shiloh, whose hometown is Elmwood, IL, is a senior Biological Sciences (Premedical) and Psychology major, with minors in Microbiology and Chemistry. Shiloh joined the Honors College as a freshman student in fall 2010 and has served the College as an Honors Ambassador and an Honors Mentor. She is also a member of Phi Eta Sigma, the freshman honor society, as well as Psi Chi, the honors psychology organization, and Tri Beta, the honors biology organization. Shiloh is also the assistant leader for the Elmwood All-Stars 4-H group, worked as the assistant sheep superintendent for the Heart of Illinois Fair, and serves as a teacher’s assistant for the virology class in WIU’s biological sciences department.

Shiloh has a record of success as an undergraduate researcher at WIU (she was featured in the September issue of “With Honors” for her research presentation at the American Phytopathological Society and Mycological Society of America in Austin, Texas in August 2013). Among her many achievements as an undergraduate Honors student at WIU, Shiloh has won numerous research grants from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Biological Sciences, including a prestigious Norman and Carmelita Teeter Undergraduate Research Award and the Paul M. Nollen Honors Biological Sciences Research Scholarship. She has also placed second in the Biology Research Symposium each of the past three years.

Shiloh’s research is yielding significant results that she is already successfully disseminating to the academic community. She co-authored a paper that appeared in Applied and Environmental Microbiology entitled “Psychrophilic and Psychrotolerant Fungi on Bats and the Presence of Geomyces spp. On Bat Wings Prior to the Arrival of White Nose Syndrome,” and she will be co-author on another paper to appear this year about transmission electron microscopy. Of her research Shiloh says, “I have worked with the fungus Pseudogymnoascus destructans the causative agent of White Nose Syndrome, which has been destroying bat populations from the east coast through the Midwest and parts of Canada. Also, I have worked with the fungus Geomyces pannorum, which is an opportunistic human pathogen. I have been characterizing and looking at the phylogenetic relationships between these two species of fungi as well as other Geomyces and Pseudogymnoascus species.” Shiloh continues to modify her Honors thesis, directed by Dr. Andrea Porras-Alfaro, in hopes of future publication. When asked about faculty mentors, Shiloh expresses gratitude for her project mentor, Dr. Porras-Alfaro: “She has helped me tremendously through allowing me the opportunity to be a part of the project and advising me on the steps I needed to take with it.”

Shiloh’s future promises to be a bright one. Next year she will begin an M.S. program, building on the research she began as an undergraduate. She says, “I will be looking at 454 next generation sequencing data for fungal and bacterial communities present before and after the arrival of WNS in Illinois.” Upon completion of her M.S. she hopes to pursue either a combination M.D./Ph.D. or a Ph.D. in medical mycology.

Given Shiloh’s demonstrated capacity for excellence in research, Shiloh’s ambitious goals are sure to be a reality. Well done, Shiloh, and best of luck!

Shiloh Lueschow
Magna Cum Laude
Year: Senior
Majors: Biological Sciences & Psychology
Minors: Microbiology & Chemistry
This month’s Honors Faculty Profile features two professors, the recent winners of the Centennial Honors College Awards of Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring, announced at Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day in April. The Centennial Honors College Awards of Excellence were created in 2012 to celebrate excellence in teaching and mentoring, and this year’s awards were awarded on the basis of activities completed between spring 2011 and fall 2013.

English and Journalism Professor Margaret Sinex was awarded the 2014 Centennial Honors College Award of Excellence in Teaching. English and Journalism Department Chair Mark Mossman described Dr. Sinex as "a thoughtful instructor who is accessible to her students" and who is "able to get her students interested and, indeed, invested in the content of her courses." During the period under review, Dr. Sinex taught seven sections of her General Honors 101 course about King Arthur and developed the new Honors advanced humanities seminar, "Tolkien: Major Works." "That means she has taught approximately 160 students of the Centennial Honors College over the past three years," Dr. Mossman noted.

Dr. Sinex's nominator, Hannah Porter (Macomb, IL), a sophomore music major, praised her as an outstanding teacher, who "expected a lot from us" but created coursework that "did not feel taxing at all because of how artfully she wove writing into the curriculum. What was especially neat about her course was how we worked to make ties between what was happening in the time of the Arthurian legends and what is happening now. I never would have thought that we have so much in common with people from so long ago, but with such a great teacher, I was able to look at the legends on a deeper level."

Philosophy and Religious Studies Department Associate Professor Christopher Pynes was awarded the 2014 Centennial Honors College Award of Excellence in Mentoring. Dr. Pynes was nominated for the honor by Honors College student Convocation Speaker Samantha Morrow. "In order to help me prepare for the LSAT, Dr. Pynes helped me to create a project that would allow me to study while also fulfilling course requirements," Samantha explained. "This dedication to our futures is what sets a professor like Dr. Pynes apart and exemplifies the Honors College's goal of shaping its students to be lifelong learners."

According to Philosophy and Religious Department Chair Gordon Pettit, Dr. Pynes "builds positive relationships with his students, whether it is helping them reconstruct arguments, prepare for the LSAT or learn how to play a logic game. Dr. Pynes has been an excellent resource for students planning to go to graduate school or law school, and he not only writes letters for them, but he helps them think through options they have and how to approach what is often a daunting task."

Dr. Pynes has supervised 16 in-course Honors projects in philosophy courses at the introductory and upper-division levels during the period under review. He has also supervised independent readings courses with other Honors students and incorporated student research in his own publications.
The subject of this month’s Honors Alum Profile is Ryan Wilson. Ryan graduated from WIU with a B.S. in Agriculture Business in December 2000, completing his undergraduate degree a semester early as the result of ambitious course loads throughout his tenure at Western. He notes proudly that he earned a 4.0 during a semester in which he took 21 hours. When asked about his initial involvement with the Honors College, he cites a family connection as playing an important role: “My mother [Wilma Wilson] worked at WIU for over 30 years. She encouraged me to meet with Dr. John Klasner, the former Director of the honors program, during my freshman year. I really liked Dr. Klasner and the opportunities that the honors program offered so I began taking honors classes.” As an undergraduate at WIU, Ryan was a member of Alpha Zeta, a national honorary agriculture fraternity that stresses scholarship, leadership in public and university life, and service both to the university and to other students.

After completing his Juris Doctorate in 2004 at Southern Illinois University School of Law, Ryan became a specialist in criminal appellate practice. He is now an Assistant Defender with the Illinois Office of the State Appellate Defender (OSAD) in Springfield. He states, “I argue appellate cases before the Illinois Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court. I have filed well over 100 appeals during my seven years with OSAD, have argued three cases in the Illinois Supreme Court, and work with some of the best and brightest attorneys who practice today. Soon, I will also begin working on my first petition for a writ of certiorari where I will ask the United States Supreme Court to review a search and seizure decision issued by the Illinois Supreme Court.” Ryan also supervises student interns in the OSAD office and mentors newly licensed attorneys through a program established by the Illinois Supreme Court. He has recently been named as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois Law School: “I teach a clinic class where law students write appellate briefs for clients that I am representing. Teaching a class is very rewarding, and the students’ input often helps to shape the brief that I ultimately file on the client’s behalf.” Ryan speaks with pride of his personal successes as well. He met wife Andrea, who is also an attorney, in law school, and they have a daughter, Kate, who is nearly seven.

When asked about his memories of the Honors College, Ryan recalls several, both personal and professional. He says, “I remember going up to the honors program when it was still on the fifth floor of the library. Patty Battles and Terri Coplan were always very helpful and positive. I also vividly remember the camaraderie I felt studying late at night with other WIU honors students as we prepared to take the Law School Admissions Test. Many WIU honors faculty graciously took time out of their schedules to help us prepare for the LSAT. Dr. Thomas Helm was also a great help to me as I faced the daunting task of determining to which law schools I should apply.” Ryan also remembers a return visit to WIU during law school to participate in a campus pre-law symposium. “In 2002, during my first year of law school, I participated in a luncheon and round table discussion. I did so with some reservation because one of my law professors told me that, though I was attending a luncheon to share my law school experiences with undergraduates, she would not excuse my absence. I mentioned this in passing during the luncheon. Dr. Martinelli-Fernandez was sitting near me and offered to call or e-mail the professor to express her belief that I should not be punished for attending the symposium. I thanked her but told her that it would not be necessary. She told the MC of the luncheon about the situation, and all of the students, guests, and faculty applauded me for participating in the symposium. The professor did not excuse my absence, but the absence was outweighed by the good discussion we had and the support I felt from my peers.”

Ryan’s many accomplishments are a testament to the quality of Honors education at WIU. Best wishes for continued success.
Honors Convocation Speaker — Samantha Morrow

It is a tradition to select an outstanding scholar from the Centennial Honors College to be the Honors Convocation speaker. That distinction belongs this spring to Samantha E. Morrow, who is graduating Summa Cum Laude with a major in History and minors in Pre-Law Honors and Music Business (Samantha was featured as the “Honors Student of the Month” in our March issue). Samantha, from Rushville, Illinois, has compiled an exemplary academic record during her time at WIU. She is the recipient of many scholarships, including the Flack Pre-Law Scholarship, Nicholas Pano Scholarship, Keith Webb Scholarship, and the Ernest Codilis Scholarship. She has also been inducted into many honorary societies, including Golden Key, Blue Key, Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Eta Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi, and has been an active leader of the Department of History’s curriculum club, the Associated Students of History (ASH). Samantha has also devoted countless hours to campus and civic activities. She chaired the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, served as a FYE Peer Mentor, was a Trumpet Section Leader for the Marching Leathernecks, and has been an Assistant Youth Soccer Coach for the YMCA.

Samantha’s address at the 2014 Honors Convocation is entitled, “Lollipop Moments.” Samantha describes her speech as “centered around a story that focuses on small yet extraordinary moments that change our futures, regardless of whether we realize it or not. Whether the lollipop moment is one specific instant or a lesson learned over time, it gives us the opportunity to follow our dreams and realize that to live is to dream—and if your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough. If we choose to follow those dreams, we'll learn to say goodbye to the old adventures and make room for new lollipop moments. Leaving Western means saying goodbye and closing the chapter on this part of the dream, but the lollipop moments created here will stay with us as we leave in search of more.”

Samantha plans to be an attorney and will attend The John Marshall Law School in the fall.

Scholarship Notices

The Honors College is pleased to announce the winners of its spring pre-law scholarship competitions. The winners of the Ernest J. Codilis Jr. Pre-Law Scholarship this year are Melanie Huettman, Jacob Tomlinson, and Samantha Morrow. The Ernest J. Codilis Jr. Pre-Law Scholarship, a non-renewable $5000 scholarship, was created by 1973 WIU graduate Ernie Codilis. Applicants for the Codilis Pre-Law Scholarship 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; and demonstrate a solid record of campus and/or community service. The scholarships were awarded on the strength of one letter of recommendation and a letter of application that highlighted extracurricular activities, leadership experience, campus and community service and explained how the scholarship would help in the preparation for law school. The winners of this year’s Dan and Laura Webb Pre-Law Scholarship are Ashley Koch and Colyn Belknap. To compete for the Web Pre-Law Scholarship, students must: be enrolled in the Centennial Honors College; be actively pursuing the Honors College Pre-Law Minor; have at least a 3.5 GPA; and demonstrate leadership in the field of pre-law. The scholarships were awarded on the strength of a resume, one letter of recommendation, and a two-page letter of application that demonstrated commitment to the study of law and highlighted leadership in the field of pre-law. The Webb Pre-Law Scholarship is an award of $5000. Congratulations to all of this spring’s winners!

Additional information on the Honors College’s awards and scholarships, as well as application forms, can be accessed at the Honors College website: http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/forms.php.
The Centennial Honors College once again acted as the proud host of Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day, held on Wednesday, April 16. The high quality of the research projects and performances presented attests to the dynamism of undergraduate achievement in research and creative activities at WIU. This year’s event featured 215 student participants, mentored by almost 100 faculty members and representing 30 academic disciplines.

Student presentations judged to demonstrate excellence received special awards in the categories of Poster, Podium, and Performance. The prizes, given for the first time at a special awards reception and ceremony on Undergraduate Research Day, were generously 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 senior Brian Knecht (Macomb, IL), who worked with Professor Leslie Melim of the Department of Geology on his project, "Stable Isotope Analysis of Pool Finger Fabrics from Cottonwood Cave and Hidden Cave, Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico" (first place); senior Nicholas Stewart (Chicago, IL), who worked with Associate Professor Redina Herman from Meteorology on his project, "The Effects of the Bishop Hill Illinois Wind Farm on Near-Surface Wind Patterns" (second place); and senior Chris Corzatt (Camp Point, IL), who worked with Assistant Professor Mark Bernards from the School of Agriculture, on his project, "Cover Crop Response to Corn and Soybean Residual Herbicides" (third place).

**Podium Presentation winners** were senior Jamey Garth (Lake Villa, IL), who worked with Assistant Professor Jonathan Day of the Department of Political Science on "Applying Game Theory to Interrogation Situations" (first place); senior Hannah Van Eendenburg (Bloomington, MN), who worked with Professor Heather McIlvaine-Newsad from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology on "Food Alienation: Distributors, Producers and Consumers in Macomb, Illinois" (second place); and senior Mikaela Simmons (Illinois City, IL), who worked with Associate Professor Brian Locke from the School of Music on "As Fertilizing to an Artist as Life Itself: Musical and Artistic Connections in Erik Satie's Parade" (third place).

For the first time, three winners were also selected from the Performance Presentation category: freshman Jillian Escobar (Hanover Park, IL), who worked with Professor Tammie Walker of the School of Music on "A Study of Un Sospiro by Franz Liszt (1811-1886)" (first place); freshman Benjamin Rogers (Savanna, IL), who worked with Professor James Stegall of the School of Music on "A Comparative Analysis of Two Art Songs Set to Paul Verlaine's Les donneurs de serenades" (second place); and senior Katie Kaminiskas (Downers Grove, IL), who worked with Professor Candace Winters-March of the Department of Theatre and Dance on "Longing For" (third place).

Anne Millen, featured in last month’s “With Honors” Honors Alum Profile, served as the distinguished speaker at Wednesday afternoon’s award ceremonies. Anne, who works DuPont Nutrition and Health in Madison, WI, spoke about the ways in which the undergraduate research she completed at Western has served as a foundation for her career in a talk titled, “Reflections from an Early Career Research Scientist.”

Congratulations to all of the students, faculty mentors, and prize judges who made this year’s Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day another wonderful success!
As I was preparing this final newsletter of the academic year last week, I received notice from President Thomas that he has approved my application for promotion to full professor. Beginning in the fall I will return to teaching in the Department of History full time as I begin a new phase of my career at WIU. It is hard for me to remember the shape of my days before my time in the Honors College, and yet it feels that it has passed in the blink of an eye.

Like our Honors students, I have had many wonderful opportunities here. My position as Golden Key advisor allowed me to work with exceptional student leaders, and I would like to acknowledge this year’s dedicated group of officers one final time: President Crystal Cho Jones; Co-Vice President Scott Baumbich; Co-Vice President Melanie Huetman; Secretary Hannah Porter; Treasurer Samantha Morrow; Literacy Service Chair Allison Hoyle; Social Chair Chuck Evans; Fundraising Chair Taylor Parduhn; Public Relations Chair Ashley Luke; Historian Kirsten Belisle; and Webmaster Alexa Zoellner. I know the future for the chapter is a bright one.

My many activities as Associate Director have repeatedly convinced me of the excellence of Honors students and faculty at Western and the dedication of those who serve the College. Perhaps nowhere was that more evident than during last fall’s 30th Anniversary of Honors at WIU. Networking with former Honors Directors and alumni all over the country in preparation for that event made it clear that Honors education at WIU matters; it opens doors, it shapes futures, and it changes lives. Indeed, the common themes in the Honors Alum Profiles in our redesigned “With Honors” are both appreciation for Honors and affection for time spent on campus working with Honors faculty and staff. Alumni remember Patty Battles’s welcoming smile on the fifth floor of Malpass, or Molly Homer’s persuasive Honors presentations at SOAR, or Rick Hardy’s address on the power of possibility at the Honors Welcome Back Party. Future alumni will doubtless fondly recall Michele Aurand’s dynamic tenure as SHA Advisor and Janell McGruder’s creation of the Honors Advantage Rewards program as well. This is an exceptional group doing great things on behalf of Honors students and Honors education at WIU.

This is not really goodbye. First, I am slated to teach a GH 299 in spring 2015 on the Black Death (“The End of the World: Plague and People in the Age of the Black Death”), the first of what I hope will be many new courses I am able to develop for Honors students. Second, and more important, my time in the Honors College and my interactions with former Honors Directors, Honors faculty, Honors alumni, Honors students, and the staff of the Honors College has taught me that one never really leaves Honors behind. Once you are in, you are family, and I am delighted to be part of the Honors College family. Best wishes to our Honors College scholars as they, too, begin an exciting new phase of their lives and their relationship with the Honors College family. Have a wonderful summer!
Elections were held on April 16th for the 2014-2015 Student Honors Association executive board. The following students were elected to new positions of leadership:

Tyler Czarnecki - President
Natasha Frig - Vice President
Amy Lanenga - Secretary
Tabetha Dungan - Treasurer
Public Relations Chair - Jasmine Bailey
Service Chair - Emily Banigan
SGA Rep - Kendra Knorst

Two days later, on April 18th, SHA partnered with Golden Key and the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center for a successful blood drive in Malpass Library. Thirty-eight volunteers stopped by to support the drive, and a total of 24 units of blood was donated. Thanks to all SHA, WIU GK, and other students, faculty, and staff who participated!

Congratulations on great 2013-2014 for SHA and for advisor Michele Aurand, and best wishes for a successful 2014-2015!