

With Honors

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March 2014 Volume 16, Issue 6



Laurels & Hardy

It is now time to spotlight the Centennial Honors College's most important annual event—the **Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day**. This university-wide forum, named after Western's renowned professor and

former honors director, provides all undergraduate students opportunities to showcase their creative ideas, talents and works. This year's Undergraduate Research Day will take place on **Wednesday, April 16** in the Union's Grand Ballroom and surrounding meeting rooms.

The Premise. Undergraduate Research Day is based on three basic axioms. First, every great idea, philosophy, invention, novel, poem, painting, concept, gadget, architectural structure, electronic device, medical cure or musical creation started in the mind of one person! Second, there are no known limits to the capacity of the human mind. Humans possess the amazing ability to imagine, dream, ponder, discover, communicate, resolve differences, and solve problems. And third, nobody has a monopoly on brainpower. Nobody! Great ideas can come from any person, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, aptitude, physical attributes, economic background or scores on standardized tests. Nor does one have to hold advanced degrees from Harvard, Yale or the University of Chicago to generate creative thinking. Indeed, great ideas can come from any undergraduate student at Western Illinois University—regardless of major or class standing!

The Format. Our Undergraduate Research Day provides three forums for showcasing students' talents—Performance Presentations, Poster Presentations and Podium Presentations. *Performance Presentations* could include: original dance routines, acrobatic drills, instrumental demonstrations, vocal solos, choral arrangements, jazz ensembles, piano duets, to name just a few. *Poster Presentations* enable students to display their artwork, poetry, or research findings on poster boards set up in the Grand Ballroom. Poster presentations are not restricted to any particular topic, major, pedagogy or methodology. *Podium Presentations* enable students to communicate their ideas and research findings verbally, much like a professor in a classroom. Podium presentations may include audio and visual

aids, such as graphs, charts, photographs, recordings, timelines and data.

The Process. To get involved, let me suggest the following steps.

Step 1—Think of something you want to research or create. Be guided foremost by your personal interests. Perhaps you are intrigued by an historical figure, an economic theory, a mathematical problem, a public policy, sustainability, health care, a recent Supreme Court ruling, horticulture, a new art medium, a psychological disorder, butterfly migration, wind technology, or whatever strikes an intellectual chord.

Step 2—Seek out a professor that is willing to foster your research. Perhaps it is a professor in your major field or favorite class. Indeed, many departments encourage students to present at Undergraduate Research Day as a way to complete their honors requirements. Selecting the right professor is important. Find someone who will guide you, serve as a sounding board, offer constructive criticism, and encourage you to do your best. But don't take "no" for an answer. Be aggressive. If you cannot identify a willing professor, then talk with your department chair or college dean, or call the Honors College for a referral. There are scores of professors who would be honored to assist you.

Step 3—Write and submit an abstract of your proposal. An abstract is a short, concise summary of what you intend to present and how you intend to present it. *Abstract and submission forms must be submitted to the Honors College between March 17 and April 4, 2014.* Please check out the guidelines for writing your abstract and delivering your poster, podium or presentation by logging on to the Honors College webpage at http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/research_day/guidelines.php.

Step 4—Present your work at Undergraduate Research Day. If you are offering a podium presentation, you will be assigned a specific time and room location. We will provide staff members to assist you with any audio and visual needs and keep things moving along.

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Laurels & Hardy Continued

Thomas E. Helm
Undergraduate
Research Day

Wednesday,
April 16, 2014

University Union
Grand Ballroom

If you are presenting a poster, you will be assigned a specific location in the Grand Ballroom. We will supply the poster boards, pushpins or whatever you need to display your research. Finally, if you plan to give a performance, you will be assigned a special time in the Prairie Lounge and will have staff members to assist you in setting up.



The Benefits. There are countless benefits to participating in our Undergraduate Research Day. You will have the opportunity explore new things, expand your knowledge, work one-on-one with a professor, learn the research craft, meet new people, and showcase your creations. You will also receive a certificate of achievement suitable for framing and have your picture taken with President Jack Thomas and Provost Ken Hawkinson. The most outstanding presentations in all three categories will also receive awards. Finally, you will be able to list your

accomplishments on your resume, which will enhance your opportunities for scholarships, employment or graduate and professional schools.

Hence, do not sit on the sidelines. Discover your talents. Share your findings. Enrich your educational experience, and take full advantage of what Western Illinois University has to offer. The Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day is for every undergraduate student. We want you! -- Rick Hardy, Director



Mock Trial Team Update

Note: Professor Kim Rice of the Department of Political Science provided this update concerning WIU's Mock Trial Team following their regional competition at Notre

Dame in late February, where both A and B teams dramatically improved their performances from their last invitational:

In addition to improving their scores, our A team went up against Notre Dame, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Hillsdale College, and Kent State. In each round, there are two judges so you have the potential to "win" 8 ballots. Our A team won 3 ballots, one of which they won in competition with Notre Dame (essentially tying that round with Notre Dame). Additionally, in their round against UW-Madison, they only lost the ballots by 2 points and 4 points.

highly ranked, including WIU senior Nicholas Boyer, who was only one rank away from winning an outstanding witness award. His portrayal of southern gentlemen "Billie Isaacs" was well received at all of our competitions.

The students are already excited for next year and are looking forward to continuing to grow and compete. Moreover, I am overwhelmed by how well our students did in our very first year as a team; there were teams there that have been in existence for many years that did not win any ballots or any awards. I hope that you will join me in congratulating our students on a job well done.



The brightest news, though, came at the awards ceremony where Nicholas Dollenmaier, a WIU senior, won an outstanding attorney award. This means that he was ranked as the best attorney in his rounds enough times to beat out over 140 other students for the award. Only about 9 of these awards were given for over 140 participants. Many on the team were also



Special Campus Event: Dr. Pradeep Dubey

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The Centennial Honors College is pleased to announce two events connected to Dr. Pradeep Dubey's visit to campus in March. Dr. Dubey, a Professor of Economics at the State University of New York, Stony Brook who also holds a visiting position at Yale University, will be presenting a talk entitled, "Game Theory, Economics, and Matching between Donors and Recipients of Organs," on Tuesday, March 18 at 3:30 in the Multicultural Center. A reception will follow at 4:30. The talk is intended for and informative to all members of the University community including students. Dr. Dubey, who earned a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Cornell University, is a path-breaking scholar with scientific publications in areas including game theory, economics, social and behavioral sciences, operations research, and mathematical programming. His papers have appeared in journals such as *Econometrica*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, and *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, among others. His dissertation, "Some Results on Values of Finite and Infinite Games," was written under the supervision of Lloyd S. Shapley, who, with Alvin E. Roth, won the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences "for the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design." Dr. Iraj Kalantari, Chair of the WIU Department of Mathematics notes, "There is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics. This is the first one related to pure mathematics because of its application."

In his talk Dr. Dubey will cover the theoretical underpinnings of two-sided matching (matching resident doctors to hospitals) and one-sided matching (matching kidneys to patients). Both are outstanding examples of game theory in action in the real world, dealing with billions of dollars' worth of transactions and affecting many careers and lives. Both are algorithmic processes at their heart. Of his talk at WIU, given in honor of Dr. Shapley, Dr. Dubey writes, "We

shall discuss in detail the path-breaking paper of Gale and Shapley on two-sided matching, which forms the basis for the practical design of many market mechanisms, such as the National Resident Matching Program which is used to allocate over 20,000 interns to hospitals every year across the USA and Canada. If time permits, we shall make an excursion into one-sided matching which underlies 'kidney exchange,' enabling patients to reassign donors' kidneys to each other in a manner that is beneficial to all."

Dr. Dubey's visit is sponsored by the following: the Office of Student Activities; the Visiting Lectures Committee; the WIU Departments of Mathematics, Economics and Decision Sciences, the School of Computer Science, and their student organizations; and the Centennial Honors College. Dr. Dubey will also present a Mathematics Department colloquium, "The Allocation of a Prize," on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 3:45 PM in Morgan 304.

All are welcome at both of Dr. Dubey's talks, which are free and open to the public. For additional information on these events, please contact the Department of Mathematics.



The scientific and scholarly community is marked by the belief that the truth is to be found in all; none can claim it as their monopoly.

~John Charles Polanyi

Honors Student of the Month



Samantha Morrow

Year: Senior

Major: History

Minors: Pre-Law Honors
Music Business

Our Honors Student of the Month is senior Samantha Morrow, a History major with Pre-Law Honors and Music Business minors. Samantha identifies the roots of her involvement with the Honors College to her SOAR program. She says, "There was a breakfast meeting for those interested, and I knew right away that I wanted to join the Honors College." Samantha names Dr. Ginny Boyton from the Department of History as a key mentor: "Dr. Boynton has played a crucial role in my academic career at WIU and is easily one of the best professors I have ever worked with. She has encouraged and supported me the past four years through everything from writing letters of recommendation to chatting with me before classes, and I will never be able to thank her enough for the interest and enthusiasm she has shown for my future." When asked about her Honors College memories, she recalls, "Looking back, some of my favorite Honors College memories that I have come from my involvement with Phi Eta Sigma and my conversations with Honors College staff. Whether we were walking the track at Relay for Life or cleaning the street for Adopt-a-Street, Phi Eta Sigma brought me closer to some of my fellow honors students. As for my conversations with the Honors College staff, one particular moment stands out: I stopped by the Honors College at the beginning

of this semester to let Molly Homer know that I had heard back from some of the law schools I applied to. I will never forget their excitement when I told Molly and Patty that I had been accepted to all four schools that I had heard back from; it reminded me that the Honors College was rooting for my future."

Samantha has been an active, engaged student leader during her time at WIU. In addition to Phi Eta Sigma, Samantha is a member of Blue Key Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society (where she serves as Treasurer), and Phi Kappa Phi. She currently serves as the President/Chairperson of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, as Secretary of Western Against Slavery, as Conference Video Committee Co-Chair and Historian of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity, and as Trumpet Section Leader of the WIU Marching Leathernecks. Samantha's future plans include law school. She proudly reports that she has been accepted to six schools and that she is currently interested in Intellectual Property Law and hopes to pursue a career in that field after earning her J.D.

Congratulations on a fine undergraduate career, Samantha, and best wishes for continued success!

Student Honors Association Quiz Bowl

This year SHA wants to start a new, big fundraising event, a Quiz Bowl tournament. This will be a trivia-based event where everyone can show their trivia skills and even win some prizes. This event will be March 23rd and will be held in the Bay/Henn Underground from 12 pm to 6 pm. The event will consist of teams going head to head in 5 rounds of questions, and each round will have a specific topic such as Sports, Music, Movies, Academics, and WIU trivia. Teams will consist of up to 5 members, and registration will cost \$25 per team. We are looking for at least 16 teams to participate. To register a

team, you can email SHA Vice President Tyler Czarnecki at ty-czarnecki@wiu.edu, and he will send you the form. The registration forms are due in the Honors College by March 21st. There will also be a bake sale going on alongside the event. Once you register, you will be placed in the bracket and receive an email to notify you when your match begins.



It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.
~ Aristotle

Honors Faculty Profile

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This month's Honors Faculty Profile features Dr. Iraj Kalantari, Chair of the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Kalantari earned an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls (B.S.); from Cornell University he received Master's degrees in Applied Mathematics (M.S.) and Pure Mathematics (M.S.) and a Ph.D. in Mathematics. Dr. Kalantari lists his research focuses as Computability in Mathematics, Mathematical Logic, Geometry, and Applied Mathematics.



In November of last year, Dr. Kalantari had a paper, jointly written with WIU professor Larry Welch, appear in *Mathematical Logic Quarterly*. He reports that he is also writing a textbook for a course he teaches frequently, Sets & Logic (Math 341), for mathematics majors and others who wish to get into analytical study of mathematics and proofs. Of Math 341 he notes, "I like teaching this course for two reasons. One, I get to meet all mathematics majors and some students from Computer Science, Economics, and Physics; and two, I get to see a significant change in every one of my students' thinking, one that puts them on a new plateau of working in mathematics, one that requires them to get used to knowing 'why' something is true in addition to 'what' is true." Dr. Kalantari works with the departmental advisor to the Math Club and just gave a talk for a recently-launched faculty committee called Colloquia for Undergraduate Students, whose charge is to arrange for faculty speakers to present higher mathematics to all of the department's undergraduate students.

This year is Dr. Kalantari's thirty-sixth year at Western. Discussing that milestone, he says, "When I say that to colleagues who inquire, some ask me when am I retiring? Generally, my response is that I am enjoying what I do and hadn't had a chance to think that idea over." Dr. Kalantari responds enthusiastically when asked about his work with Honors students, stating, "While we have many wonderful students at the university, our Honors students are particularly academically directed; I admire that and try to help where I can, especially now that the Honors College is in the best of hands it has ever been." He continues, "A long time ago, I volunteered and taught a GH 103 course on the topic of 'Game Theory.' I had about 10 students and I quite enjoyed it. That experience led to our introduction of Math

102 (a general education course for political & social sciences majors) in which we introduce game theory, among other topics. I regularly offer my students to consider an In-Course Honors project. I will be having one such student in my fall section of Math 341."

When asked how he makes his specialty accessible for students and public audiences, Dr. Kalantari replies, "This is a most inviting challenge! Any exposition

must be gauged for its intended audience. I could say there are many mathematicians who particularly like to try to make mathematics accessible to the particular non-specialist audience they face (from specialists, to mathematician non-specialists, to graduate students, to undergraduate students, to the curious and learned public, etc.). I enjoy that challenge as well. I believe language with its power of expression is a wonderful toy. The rather simplistic response is: I don't hesitate to use metaphors."

Among the academic texts Dr. Kalantari reads regularly, he lists *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, *Annals of Pure & Applied Logic*, *Mathematical Logic Quarterly*, and *Computability*. In responding to a request for a title he recommends to others, Dr. Kalantari provides the following response: "In the presence of an uncountable number of great books to read, I am at a stalemate to call one my favorite. But a recent conversation with a college-time friend made me realize that Hermann Hesse's enigmatic *The Journey to the East*, which I had to read for an undergraduate course, was interesting but just a faint memory, so I read it recently. But more meaningfully, I came across a very recent and scientifically excellent book, *A Short Guide to a Long Life* by David Agus, that I have sent copies of to many of my friends; and I recommend it to our students." After submitting those recommendations, Dr. Kalantari added another book to his list, *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies*, by Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee. He says, "As you might guess, the first 'machine' refers to the underpinning collection in 'industrialization' and the second machine refers to computerization and its impact, in a similar way to the first, on everything concerning us. Industrialization provided physical muscle power at revolutionary levels; the new age is providing mental muscle power at levels we have yet to experience fully."



Jessica Harriger

**B.B. in Economics
WIU—2005**

**M.A. in Economics
WIU—2006**

**Ph.D. in Economics
Binghamton Univ.
in New York—2010**

Honors Alum Profile

Western graduate and current faculty member Jessica Harriger is featured in this month's Honors Alum Profile. Jessica graduated with a Bachelor of Business in Economics from WIU in 2005. While at WIU, Jessica was awarded a Centennial Honors College Scholarship and lived on the Honors Floors in Thompson Hall. She notes, "because I was living with other honors students, I developed many friendships." She worked with other Honors students as a panelist in the student Copenhagen Consensus debate and was a member of Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi (and was a PKP scholarship recipient), and Beta Gamma Sigma (Business Honor Society). After completing her B.B., she received an assistantship with the graduate program in Economics, earning an M.A. in July 2006. Jessica cites her work as a Peer Mentor for the FYE program when it was an Honors College pilot program with inspiring her to pursue a doctorate. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Binghamton University in New York in August 2010, returning to WIU as an instructor in 2009 while finishing her degree and then becoming a full tenure-track faculty member in fall 2010.

Jessica's area of expertise is Microeconomics. She explains, "My dissertation and the bulk of my research efforts focus on modeling and estimating interdependent preferences, also known as conspicuous consumption. I have also been working in the areas of economics of crime and economics education. I have been working on a variety of projects that involve assessing the role technology plays in the economics classroom." Among her recent accomplishments Jessica identifies invitations to speak at several prestigious and competitive conferences, including the international meeting in Banff, Canada in 2013 of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, a conference which brings together distinguished environmental economics researchers and government officials. She is also a winner of the College of

Business and Technology's award for Excellence in University/Community Service.

Q: WIU Honors memories or reflections you would like to share?

JH: There are two defining moments for me as an undergraduate student that have really shaped who I am today. The first memory is participating in Undergraduate Research Day. I was a terribly shy and quiet student with little confidence. Dr. Sue Martinelli-Fernandez "took me under her wing" and gave me the confidence to conduct research in philosophy. I will never forget explaining my work to former Provost Rallo and answering his questions. It was nerve wracking but it motivated me to continue researching in my main field and to keep pushing myself beyond the minimum class requirements. The second memory was working with my



Jessica (right), with Honors graduates Alex Heuer and Ashley Eberle at The Copenhagen Consensus, 2004

FYE students in Dr. Tom Joswick's GH 101 course. I organized a class outing to the Art Museum to participate in an interactive art exhibit. I felt connected to my students and their response was so positive that I realized I wanted to continue to work with students and these interactions inspired my decision to pursue an academic career.

Honors Opportunities in Barcelona

Attention Honors students: Professors Stacey Macchi and Cindy Ridle of the Department of Communication will be leading an Intercultural Communication Study Abroad course to Barcelona, Spain. This intercultural communication course combines pre-departure coursework (mostly online) with an exciting two week travel adventure beginning May 18, 2015.

Students will have the opportunity to experience the Catalán and Spanish cultures, appreciate the cultural



diversity present in this part of the world, and recognize the cultural forces that have shaped this region. Participants will analyze their own and the culture of the area as they go

beyond the textbook and learn about the history of this beautiful city and region, culture and way of life, the food, traditions, and much more! Program highlights include: guided tours, a cooking class, a day trip to the mind-blowing Salvador Dali's Theatre - Museum, academic lectures, Catalán language & culture class, street Spanish & non-verbal communication

class, visits to the Gothic Quarter as well as Barrios and Sagrada Familia, optional Zaragoza and Montserrat trips, and a re-entry professional workshop on "How to use this experience to help you land your dream job."

To learn about this unique intercultural study abroad opportunity, students can attend an informational session on Wednesday, April 2nd at 3:00 pm in the University Union's Chicago Room.

On Facebook, ask to join the group: WIU Department of Communication Barcelona, Spain, and on Twitter, follow us at @wiucommspain



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Honors Students in the News



Illinois Region. The HCIR Student Conference, held this year at Joliet Junior College, allows students to present their research and scholarship as well as meet peers from other institutions in the Illinois region. As the HCIR website notes, "The

On Saturday, February 22, Honors College Director Rick Hardy accompanied WIU Honors students to an annual event sponsored by the Honors Council of the

conference provides a welcoming, constructive environment in which students can discuss their research and learn and grow from the experience." This year's representatives from WIU were three Physics students: Daniel Halbe, who presented "Detection of a New Hydroxyl Maser Flare in a Massive Star Formation"; Zachary Abbott, who presented "Magnetic Field Measurements in a Sample of Star Forming Regions"; and Tyler Czarnecki, who presented "Variation of Optical Band Gap in Lead and Bismuth Borate Glasses." Next year's conference will be held February 28, 2015 at College of DuPage.

INTERESTED IN LAW SCHOOL OR A CAREER IN THE LEGAL FIELD???

Check out WIU's Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Chapter!

Mission

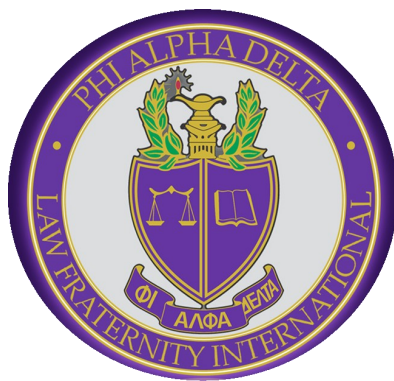
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community.

Vision

We are the preeminent law fraternity promoting the bonds of fraternalism and we are the leader in the development and advancement of professional ideals.

Core Values

Bound together by tradition and our common interest in the law, we share these core values: Integrity, Compassion, Courage, Professionalism, Service, Diversity, and Innovation.



Meetings: Tuesdays @ 5-6pm
Morgan Hall 316

Contact Person
Abbi L. Clevenger
ALClevenger@wiu.edu
Check us out on PurplePost!
<https://purplepost.wiu.edu/organization/PAD>

13th Annual Pre-Law Symposium

The symposium this year kicked off with refreshments and socialization among students, faculty, administrators, and law school representatives. Despite the unpredictable winter weather, the turnout was great! Students were able to discuss their law school plans with many law school representatives and heard a panel discussion with distinguished WIU Alumni.



Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17 Abstract Submissions begin for Under- graduate Research Day	18 Pradeep Dubey 3:30-4:30pm Multicultural Center	19 Dressing on a Budget 1:30-4:30pm Memorial Hall 125	20 Guest/Faculty Recital 7:30pm COFAC Recital Hall	21 LEAD Series 4-5 pm SOC - Union Base- ment	22 Comedy with Gary Owen 9:00-10:30 pm Union-Grand Ballroom
23 SHA Quiz Bowl 12-6 pm Bayliss/Henninger Underground	24 Wayne N. Thompson Scholar Lecture 5-6 pm Sandburg Theater	25 SGA Electoral Debate 7-8 pm University Union Capitol Room	26 Distinguished Faculty Lecture 7-8 pm COFAC Recital Hall	27 Personal Finances Seminar 12-1 pm Memorial Hall 124	28 Board of Trustees Meeting Starts at 9:00 am Union-Capitol Room	29 Swishes4Wishes 9:00 am-5:00 pm Campus Recreation Center
30 St. Baldrick's 2014 1-5 pm Tanner Hall	31 Hypnotist & Mentalist: Eric Mina 7-8:30 pm Union-Grand Ballroom	April 1 Environmental Summit 12:30-8:00 pm Malpass Library & Stipes Hall	2 Physics Research Day 4-6 pm Physical Sciences Li- brary in Currans Hall	3 LEAD Series 7-8 pm SOC - Union Base- ment	4 Last Day for Undergraduate Re- search Day Abstract Submissions	5 2014 Color Craze 5K 9 am-12 pm Vince Grady Field

Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom
~ George Washington Carver

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