

With Honors

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Laurels & Hardy

A major objective of the Centennial Honors College is to expand our students' opportunities to learn about other cultures and people throughout the global community. This can be accomplished by taking global awareness courses, learning foreign languages, visiting with international exchange students, or by traveling to other countries via our myriad Study Abroad programs.

Last week the Honors College embarked on an exiting, groundbreaking way to expand our students' understanding of the people and culture of China. Dr. Timothy Roberts, professor of history at Western Illinois University, is currently teaching an American Legal History course at Zhejiang University (for more, see the feature submitted by Dr. Roberts on pg. 7). Professor Roberts arranged to have real time exchange among sixteen Chinese students and students at Western Illinois University via Skype.

For Western students, the event took place on Wednesday evening, November 6 in room 180 of Malpass Library. For Chinese students, the exchange was broadcast from their classroom on Thursday morning, November 7.

The subject of our international dialog was the United States Constitution's Second Amendment. The topics of discussion included: the historical underpinnings and development of the Second Amendment, the recent landmark decision of McDonald v. Chicago (2010), and the problems associated the need to balance our individual's right to keep and bear arms and the government's need to regulate guns for the sake of public safety.

In preparation, both groups read three common, well-balanced online scholarly articles regarding the efficacy and limits of gun rights. Additionally, the Chinese students emailed nine written questions regarding the Second Amendment. Questions included: "In China, we ordinary people are not supposed to have guns. So, guns are not tools for us to use in self-defense... Do you really think it is necessary for citizens to have guns for self-defense?", "What role do gun dealers play in obstructing gun laws?", and "I wonder if the law[s] allowing people to have guns leads to gun abuses?"

Not all questions pertained to the Second Amendment. For example, one Chinese student asked: "I would like to know about the college life in America, such as what they do everyday, and what do they learn in college." Americans were equally inquisitive about life in China. Our students asked their Chinese counterparts about their studies, life in China, and crime and punishments.

Western's participating honor students and graduate students were: Greg Boidy, Marquita Daniel, James Brenner, Chris Busker, Tim Wetzel, Tarique Ahmad, Datrese Hearn, Tom Loftus, Tyler Van Kuiken, Zee Mutairi, Gabrielle Mouzon, Jonathan McGee, Alex Gleason, and Sean Sullivan. Also joining us was Ms. Victoria Smith, attorney and visiting professor of constitutional law in the WIU Department of Political Science. A special thanks is owed the Dr. Roberts and to James Brenner, Greg Boidy, and Chris Busker for their technical and logistical arrangements.

From all accounts, our international experiment was a success. Both groups of students were able to study a common subject, ask questions freely, exchange ideas, and profit from each other's experiences. In the very near future we hope to expand our international face-to-face exchanges on a regular basis.

~Rick Hardy, Director

"Some people dream of great accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them."

~Anonymous



Notes from the Associate Director



On November 10 the WIU chapter of Golden Key International Honour welcomed 100 new student members at its annual New Member Recognition Event (NMRE). It has been my privilege to serve as advisor for GK at WIU in my capacity as Associate Director, and it has been a great pleasure to watch the chapter thrive during the last two years.

The NMRE brought together more than 100 administrators, faculty, students, friends, and family members to celebrate the accomplishments of high-achieving students on both WIU campuses. In addition to recognizing New Members, Vice President for Student Services Gary Bill and Associate Provost Nancy Parsons were initiated into the Society as Honorary Members, and Dean Susan Martinelli-Fernandez was recognized for her ten years of service to the WIU GK chapter. Professor Janna Deitz provided the keynote address on the theme of GK's mission, "Unlock Your Potential."

It has been a active semester for GK. In conjunction with Make a Difference Day in October, GK volunteers, working with members of Theta Xi fraternity and the Management Information Systems Association (MISA), assisted the Friends of the Macomb Public Library in moving and organizing more than 12,000 books in preparations for the Friends' annual book sales. Earlier in the weekend of the NMRE, GK volunteers assisted Macomb Altrusa in preparing and hosting its annual Holiday Bazaar at Macomb High School, helping the Bazaar to its most successful year ever in the kitchen (I know I personally served a truly epic amount of chili to the hungry masses on the hunt for that special holiday gift, while GK student volunteers prepared over 100 plates of homemade taco salad). In this way GK members are making a real difference in the life of our community, and I would like to thank all of those who generously gave of their time to these volunteer projects.

There is still plenty of time to accept invitations to membership (if you received an invitation this fall, it is good through next semester) and to a position of leadership. Our next chapter business meeting is Tuesday, November 10 at 5:30 in Malpass 180 in the Digital Commons., so come and learn about the opportunities that await you!

Congratulations to the Centennial Honors College students newly initiated into the WIU chapter of Golden Key:

Kevin Thomas
Christina Jones
Melanie Huettman
Quinn Bonansinga
Eliese Potocek
Holly Conlin
Paris Hamm
Charles Evans
Julie Herek
Ashley Dicosola
Morgan Clark
Samantha Morrow
Brittany Hall
Josh Twidwell
Sarah Gatza
Dustin Dirth
Alli Reed
Andrey Mojica
Megan Moffit
Sally Riccardi
Devin Stumpf
Haley Calvert
Jasmine Bailey
Nicole Szabo
Morgan Conrady
Kirsten Belisle
Angela Elzer
Hannah Porter



Honors History majors Samantha Morrow and Melanie Huettman model their GK certificates.



Lindsey (right), pictured with Professor Aimee Shouse

Senior Lindsey Marie Posmanick, a Women's Studies major with minors in Political Science and Honors Pre-Law, was named the Western Illinois University recipient of the prestigious Lincoln Academy of Illinois' Student Laureate Award for 2013. She graciously agreed to write about her experiences as a student in the Centennial Honors College for "With Honors."

When asked about the Honors College, Lindsey responds, "Being a part of the Centennial Honors College has been one of the highlights of my academic career. The faculty members at the Honors College have been constant mentors, and have been the driving force that has built me into the woman I am today. Within the Honors College I was nominated as a 2012 Western Illinois Truman Scholar, I was a Research Associate for the Office of Social Inequalities within the President's Institute, and I was chosen to be an Honors Ambassador assisting in the recruitment of new Honors students."

My involvement within the Honors College has led me around the world and shaped my desire to be a human rights advocate. The Centennial Honors College has challenged me intellectually, and I am confident that my mentors within the Women's Studies Department, the Centennial Honors College, and the Women's Center will be instrumental in all my future successes.

As a Centennial Honors College student, I was excited to discover new ways to link my academic career with my interests in activism. I worked with my professors to design honors projects that focused on the intersections of women and government. During my Women and Politics course, I completed a bill analysis of the first law combating modern day slavery, the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000." My analysis became a catalyst for many of my future projects and involvement in extra curricular activities. For example, I was the Secretary for Western against Slavery, I was a panelist for the film "Call + Response: A Documentary to end Modern Day Slavery," and I am currently completing an independent study focused on the social construction of human trafficking victims in the media."

Of the honor of serving as WIU's Lincoln Laureate and of the ceremony in Springfield, she notes, "I was thrilled when I discov-

ered I was the recipient of the Lincoln Laureate Award. It felt wonderful to be able to share the news with the amazing people who have supported me throughout my academic career especially my parents, friends, and the incredible faculty members at Western Illinois University. So many people have rallied behind my sometimes-seeming overly ambitious endeavors, and I was ecstatic to share this momentous occasion with them."

The Lincoln Laureate Award ceremony was on November 2nd. I was accompanied by both of my parents and the chair of the Women's Studies Department, Dr. Aimee Shouse. The Lincoln Academy planned an exciting day for us. The day included a tour of the Old State Capital, a wonderful award ceremony that finished with the presentation of medallions and certificates, and a lunch at the Executive Mansion. My favorite part of the day was the opportunity to meet my incredible fellow Laureates. I was in awe by many of their achievements and am honored to have spent the day with them sharing our stories and ambitions."

Lindsey hopes her ambitions will take her across the globe, as they did during a Semester at Sea program in Spring 2013: "Upon completion of my undergraduate education at Western Illinois University, I have decided to apply for a one-year contract with the United Nations on Gender Equality in Hanoi, Vietnam to gain valuable field experience. Following my one-year term, I will complete a Masters program focused on Globalization, Gender, and Human Rights. I have begun the application process for London School of Economics and Political Science, Australia National University, University of Ireland Galway, and University of Cape Town. After completion of this program, I plan to pursue a dual Juris Doctorate/ Ph.D. in Political Science that will continue to link my interests in academics and activism. I intend to focus my work on international human rights law and women's studies."

Lindsey concludes, "I aim to dedicate several years of my life to working in a national government office with the intention of gaining expertise in order to dedicate my life to increasing women's autonomy. I aspire to achieve a position as a senior level officer for the United Nations Economic and Social Development Council for Gender Affairs or the Ambassador for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. In this role, I will be in a better position to combat human trafficking as well as empower women and girls globally. It will improve my ability to influence international law and its role in women's lives. With my position I can pave the way for other women to pursue better opportunities and increase the quality of life for all people."



Honors Student of the Month



Sophomore Hannah Drake, a Forensic Chemistry major and Philosophy and Mathematics double minor, is November's Honors Student of the Month. Hannah is an active member of AXE (Chemistry Club), Mathematics Club, Student Philosophy Association, Blue Key Honor Society, and National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). She also serves as the Freshman Honors floor Resident Assistant. Hannah was recently awarded an OTM ("Of the Month") from NRHH for her "Scholarship Night" program; she developed a personalized scholarship packet for each of her residents, designed to help them increase their financial wellbeing on campus. Last May she received an NRHH Scholarship Pillar for encouraging others to become better students as well as for her own academic excellence (which also garnered her the Chairman's Award in the Department of Chemistry last May as the outstanding freshman student in the department).

Of her Honors memories, Hannah notes, "A recent memory that I have enjoyed was spending time with my floor for various programs and activities. I love to spend time with them and help them grow as individuals. Recently it was Mole Day and we had a big celebration. We played pin the tail on the mole and crowned a Mole Queen, Sarah Szott, and then sang to her. Making her smile and enjoy her royalty as "Queen of Mole-Ville" was really great. I also really enjoy spending time with Grant Bachner, SHA Treasurer; we often talk about what is going on in SHA and all the fun things that they have planned."

Hannah responds enthusiastically when asked to identify her mentors. Of the first, Chemistry professor Tarab Ahmad, Hannah says, "She has supported me academically, emotionally, and professionally through research in Analytical Chemistry. She helped me realize that I can and will do wonderful things in the field of Chemistry in my future. I really appreciate her motivation and trust. She put faith into my abilities as a first semester freshman student and allowed me to partake in research with her. Through her assistance, my partner and I were able to present our research as well as to create a better understanding for ourselves in the field we intend to go into. Her assistance in my studies here at WIU cannot go without recognition." Of the second, she writes, "Dr. Hardy is the reason why I chose to come to WIU. On my very first day at Western, I met Dr. Hardy, and he made me feel like the university wanted to have me. Every time I get the chance to talk to him, I feel motivated to change the world for the better. I may not have gotten the opportunity to take a class with him yet, but out of all of the individuals I have met at Western, Dr. Hardy has been the one who has motivated me to do the seemingly impossible and to never take no for an answer. He is the driving force in why I want to succeed as a student and make my mark in history. To have his confidence in my abilities means the world to me."

Hannah plans to attend graduate school upon the completion of her program at WIU and hopes to achieve a doctorate in Chemistry.

Best wishes for continued success, Hannah!

More Honors Students in the News



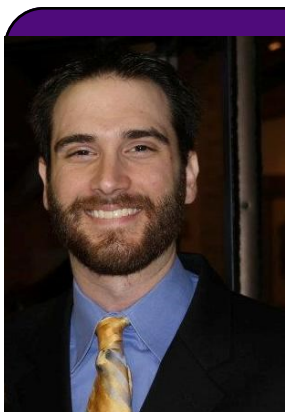
William Moran (right), pictured with faculty mentor Professor Josh Averbeck

*On October 25-26 Honors student William Moran, accompanied by Professor Josh Averbeck, traveled to a Forensics Tournament at Illinois Central College in connection with an honors project in Comm 247, "Argumentation and Debate." William competed in impromptu speaking, an

event where he had to prepare and give a speech on a provided topic all within 7 minutes.

*Congratulations to the winners of this fall's Honors pre-law scholarships:

- ⇒ Keith Webb Memorial Scholarship - Alli Reed, a senior Law Enforcement and Justice Administration major
- ⇒ Dan and Laura Webb Pre-Law Scholarship - Dillon Cook, a junior Psychology major
- ⇒ Charles H. "Chick" and Barbara Joan Flack Pre-Law Scholarship - Samantha Morrow, senior History major



Honors Alum Profile

The subject of this month's profile is Steve Catania. After graduating *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in History from WIU in 2006, Steve earned an M.A. in Medieval History and Museum Studies from the University of Chicago in 2007, and he is currently completing a Ph.D. in History from Loyola University of Chicago. In May 2013 he earned a Certificate in Large Project Planning and Management from the Digital Humanities Summer Institute. Steve expects to complete his dissertation in the field of Early Modern Britain, "Brandy Nan and Farmer George – Constitutional Monarchy and Public Perceptions of Health," in 2014.

Steve's awards and honors have been many since leaving WIU. He has served as an Instructor of Record as well as a Pre-Doctoral Teaching Fellow at Loyola University Chicago and was nominated for the Provost's Award of Excellence in Teaching Freshman in 2012. Steve has received support for his doctoral work at LUC from an Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship and as an Advanced Doctoral Fellow. Steve has continued a pattern of presenting his research, first established at WIU's Undergraduate Research Day, by participating in several graduate student and professional conferences. This October Steve gave his latest paper, "A Prince, Print, and Privacy in Eighteenth-Century England," at the Midwest Conference on British Studies

(MWCBS). [AD Note: As the conference organizer of this year's MWCBS, I had the great pleasure of hearing Steve present his work on news coverage of the health of King George III, tracing the changing nature of privacy and the public's growing demand for news of the monarch's private life. Steve was a student of mine during my first year at WIU, and it is wonderful to visit with him now as a professional colleague.]

When asked about Honors memories, Steve wrote, "I remember visiting campus for the first time and being unsure if Western would be a good fit for me. Then I met with Dr. Helm, and he had me visit an Honors course and talked with me afterwards. He articulated all the advantages that being a member of the Centennial Honors College could provide me. In particular, I remember him saying I would get as much out of it as I put into it. He struck the perfect balance of mentor and motivator in that meeting, and over the next few years, he continued to be a great source of inspiration to me. In addition, the Honors College allowed me to interact with wonderful staff and faculty who I would otherwise not have had the chance to know, including Patty, Molly, and President Goldfarb. Plus, living on the Honors Floor in Thompson and Washington allowed me to develop long-lasting friendships with a diverse group of people."

Student Honors Association

It has been a busy November for SHA. On Sunday, November 3rd, SHA hosted Karaoke Night in the Bay/Henn Underground, and on Saturday, November 9th, members participated in Adopt-a-Street in the morning and Scream & Swing Night in the evening in the Bay/Henn Underground. Members donated blood on Monday, November 11th for the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center Blood Drive, and SHA is preparing for its Better World Books drive between December 2nd and December 15th in all residence hall locations.

SHA also has a fundraiser, just in time for the holidays! Member Krista Glass designed a new SHA t-shirt (pictured right) that might be perfect for that special person on your gift list. Shirts, ranging from size Small to XL, are on sale now in the Honors College for only [\\$10](#) each. Stop by to purchase yours today!



Honors Faculty Profile



The Honors Faculty Profile for November features Dr. William (Bill) Thompson, who has been at WIU with a dual appointment in the Department of English and the Library for thirteen years. Dr. Thompson earned a B.A. from Fordham University, a

Ph.D. in English from the University of Southern Mississippi, and an MLIS from LSU. Dr. Thompson regularly teaches ENG 200 (Introduction to Poetry) and English 201 (Introduction to Fiction). He also taught for the Honors College (Literature Now, Right This Very Instant), a course “where we read stories, novels, and poems published as close in time to the semester (the “now”) as possible.”

When asked about his areas of expertise, Dr. Thompson responds, “In the library my area of expertise is, finding things people want and showing people the connections between what they are looking for and other things that they might also look for. I am good at it—as are the other reference librarians. In the English department, my expertise is, oddly enough, that I have no particular expertise. I am a generalist. I teach the Gen Ed courses, especially poetry. I enjoy introducing students to basic ideas, then passing them on to the subject specialists who sharpen, deepen, and complicate what I begin. I see myself as opening intellectual doors. It’s very much like what I do in the library.” He continues, “I am also and perhaps primarily a photographer. I have a local show coming up in April at Sullivan Taylors. I could not imagine existence without books or a camera. I even photograph books as I read them.”

Dr. Thompson recounts a trio of circumstances that sparked his involvement with Honors students at WIU. “1) One of my best friends is Molly Homer, the Honors Advisor. She has probably been the biggest influence in my becoming actively involved. 2) The Honors College is

located in the Library and that collocation invited serendipitous meetings and conversations with administrators, staff, and students associated with the Honors College—and those drew me in. 3) I was an Honors Student in my undergraduate days and, so, am drawn to the WIU Honors College as I was intellectually happy (challenged and encouraged) in that honors program and am glad, even happy, to share the happiness with succeeding generations with students.”

As a review of the following responses suggests, Dr. Thompson is an avid reader. “My generalist bent impels me away from specialist journals and toward publications like book reviews. I subscribe to a kaleidoscope of book reviews (*New York Review of Books*, *London Review of Books*, *Boston Review*, *ABR*, *Gay and Lesbian Review of Books*, the list goes on). Book reviews are great ways to encounter a variety of new ideas, new writers, which I can then pursue. I also subscribe to *Art Forum* and *Art in America* for the same reason, learning about new artists (and old ones) that I had not heard of before. I am currently on a Ronald Johnson kick and am reading his poems, currently the collection, “The Shrubberies,” short poems using ordinary objects to achieve cosmic connections. Johnson is a wildly inventive American poet who ought to be much better known than he is, something you could say that about most great American poets. If you want to change your view of things, try Ronald Johnson. I am also reading David Foster Wallace’s *The Pale King* for a reading group I am in. It’s quite good. I am reading it on Audible as I drive hither and yon. I love audio books. I also am reading or, at least encountering, *Words of Love*, Mark Rutkoski’s reworking of Shakespeare’s *Sonnets* as an alphabetized list of all the words in the sonnets.” When asked about a favorite book that he recommends to others, he responds, “*Dancer from the Dance* by Andrew Holleran was a book that in some respects changed my life, a funny and melancholy and incantatory evocation of gay male life before AIDS. I have enjoyed all of Holleran’s books, both the novels and the essays. He is always laughing and crying at the same time. He sees the beauty and the sadness of life and the beauty in the sadness of life and the sadness in its beauty and the comedy in any combination.”

Reminder: Applications for GH 299 “US Railroads” are due Wednesday, November 13th



Ni hao to the Honors College! My family and I are in Hangzhou, China this academic year, at Zhejiang University. I am teaching American history as a U.S.

Fulbright lecturer. This fall I am teaching an undergraduate course on American legal history and a graduate course on "America in the World." It's fascinating to learn what Chinese students think about the USA.

Hangzhou, just southwest of Shanghai on the Chinese coast, is by Chinese standards a medium sized city - only seven million! But its teeming people have several outlets. One is the Longjing tea-growing hills that surround the city, good for hiking. Another is the beautiful West Lake in the city center. Autumn is "wedding season," and when you bike or stroll around the lake its green shoreline is dotted with brides getting their photos taken. The explorer Marco Polo visited Hangzhou in the late thirteenth century, calling it "the City of Heaven, the most beautiful in the world."

Another outlet for the transportationally-challenged in Hangzhou, like us, is the city's free bicycle system.



Top left: Dr. Roberts with students Chenchen and Mengdi; above, West Lake; top right, family cycling in Hangzhou



There are 18,000 orange bicycles available at 3,000 public stations. You deposit 300 Yuan (about [\\$50](#)), get an electronic bike card, and you're good to go. As long as you don't keep the bike more than two hours it's free.

This weekend my family and I will take a cross-country train trip (28 hours) to the city of Chongqing, in Sichuan Province, where I will give two lectures to students and faculty (in English) at China's Southwest University. I was asked to speak on American "exceptionalism," and on the development of American labor laws.

I would encourage everyone to consider study abroad, perhaps especially in China. The country is developing rapidly, even aggressively. But Chinese people are curious about the United States, and about Americans. WIU students would have a lot to offer here.

If anyone is interested in following my family's China blog, e-mail me (TM-Roberts@wiu.edu) and I'll give you the website.

Zai jian!



Circle K International submitted by Holly Stauffer



Circle K International is a student-lead, internationally based volunteer organization that works to help better the world for children. We work with the other branches of Kiwanis, which is our adult counterpart, to better our homes, schools, and communities. We don't just help ourselves, though; we work all around the world to better it. Right now, the Western edition of Circle K is finishing up Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF where the money will go to neonatal tetanus. So far we have raised over \$100 and still haven't gotten all of our boxes in. If you would be interested in Circle K International our meetings are on Thursdays at 7 pm in the Lincoln Room in the Union.

We would love to see you there!

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12 Golden Key, 5:30 Malpass 180	13 Graduate School Seminar Series 3 Lincoln Rm @ 4:00	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Graduate School Seminar Series 4 Lincoln Rm @ 4:00	21	22	23
24	25 T h a n k s g i v i n g	26	27 B r e a k —	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 N o C l a s s e s	30
December 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Need Phi Kappa Phi Graduation Cords for December Commencement? Contact Professor
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