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With Honors



Laurels & Hardy

Centennial honor students might do well to consider law school. Perhaps no other degree offers so many career options as a law degree. Indeed, there are more than 400 occupations where a law degree can be put to good use, including those in the fields of banking, real estate, law enforcement, entertainment, public administration, and college teaching. To learn more about law school, join us for the Midwest's premier law school symposium.

The Centennial Honors College will host the 13th Annual Pre-Law Symposium on Monday, February 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Multicultural Center. This year's event, which includes a table fair, a keynote speech, and a panel discussion, promises to be the biggest and best ever.

The event will open with a table fair that will include deans, admissions officers, and recruiters from nearly two-dozen law schools. Anticipated participants include:

- * Drake University School of Law
- * University of Minnesota Law School
- * Marquette University College of Law
- * Indiana Tech School of Law
- * John Marshall School of Law
- * University of Iowa College of Law
- * Valparaiso University Law School
- * University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law
- * Northern Illinois University School of Law
- * Southern Illinois University School of Law
- * University of Wisconsin School of Law
- * Hamline University School of Law
- * University of Illinois College of Law
- * DePaul University School of Law
- * Loyola University College of Law
- * Chicago-Kent School of Law

The table fair will feature great food, music by Dr. John Simmons, and information for joining Western's Phi

Alpha Delta Pre-Law Honorary and our Mock Trial Team. You will also have an opportunity to meet WIU professors and administrators who hold law degrees and to interact with members of the McDonough County Bar Association.

This year's Keynote Speaker will be Ms. Heather Wier Vaught, a 1998 graduate of Western Illinois University who was a dual major in Sociology and LEJA. Ms. Vaught graduated from the Northern Illinois University School of Law and is now Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the Illinois General Assembly. The topic of her address is "*10 Things I Wish I Had Known Before Law School.*"

Our distinguished alumni panel will include: Genc Arifi (WIU 2013, LEJA major, now a 1L at DePaul University College of Law); LaQuenta Rudison (WIU 2012, Philosophy major, now a 2L at John Marshall Law School); Arsenio L. Mims (WIU 2011, Political Science and Business, now a 3L at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law); Steven Dennis Rineberg (WIU 1998, Political Science major, graduate of Saint Louis University College of Law and practicing lawyer, featured as our September 2013 Alum Profile); and John Fisk (WIU 1977, History major, graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law, and practicing attorney).

Finally, a special thanks goes out to the McDonough County Bar Association; the WIU Departments of History, Sociology & Anthropology, Law Enforcement & Justice Administration, and Political Science; and our many benefactors, especially attorney and alumnus Mr. Matt Bills, for promoting and underwriting our program.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to learn about law school—how to prepare for law school, how to select a law school, what law school is like, and what you can do with a law degree.

~Rick Hardy, Director



Notes from the Associate Director



Honors students, it is time for the Centennial Honors College Faculty Awards of Excellence, and I need your help! Have you ever had an Honors professor or mentor who inspired you or provided invaluable assistance in a class or as you worked to complete a project or application for a scholarship or internship? Has an Honors teacher or advisor gone above and beyond your expectations in helping you achieve personal, academic, or professional goals? Now is your chance to recognize his or her contributions to your academic and personal growth at Western. Please consider nominating an Honors teacher or mentor for the 2014 Centennial Honors College Awards of Excellence in Teaching/Mentoring. Simply fill out the brief Nomination Form found online (http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/forms.php)

or stop by the Centennial Honors College to pick up a copy of the form; return completed nominations to the College or by email to me at JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu. Award winners and their student nominators will be publicly celebrated at the Annual Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day in April. I believe that students of the Centennial Honors College are campus leaders and know that I can count on you to help ensure that our award program is a success. Nominations are due by **March 7th**, so please make a nomination today!



Golden Key Update



It is scholarship season for members of Golden Key International Honour Society. The Society, which presents \$1 million in scholarships and awards annually, has a number of spring scholarship competitions for which Honors GK members should consider applying. Among the scholarships with an April 1 deadline:

- ◆ Community Service Award: a \$1000 award that recognizes members for outstanding and impactful service to the community. Applicants must have accumulated 100 hours of community service through a nonprofit organization over a lifetime of volunteering.
- ◆ Study Abroad Scholarship: a \$1000 award that assists members who are going to participate in a study abroad program that counts for academic credit.
- ◆ Research Grant: a \$1000 grant that allows members to conduct thesis research and/or present their research at professional conferences or student research symposia.
- ◆ Educational Development Grant: a \$2000 award that allows

current Golden Key members the ability to attend professional development conferences or research conferences within their academic disciplines. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

- ◆ Undergraduate Achievement Award: a \$5000 award that recognizes Golden Key members for their excellence throughout their undergraduate careers. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ◆ Graduate Scholar Award: a \$10,000 award supports members' post-baccalaureate study at accredited universities anywhere in the world. Applicants for GK's premier scholarship will need to demonstrate why they are continuing their education and how they feel they can truly create change in the future.

Honors students who are current members of GK are highly qualified for many of these awards, so find a scholarship that fits your needs and follow the simple application process! For the complete 2014 Golden Key Scholarship List and information on application procedures, stop by the Honors College to see Dr. McNabb, or visit the GK website:

<https://www.goldenkey.org/scholarships-awards/listing/>





Senior Honors student Juliana Goodman, an English major with a minor in Creative Writing, has been named as a finalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award. Juliana is an accomplished and engaged

student at WIU. She is a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Tau Delta, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the *Elements* Literary Magazine staff, and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She has also been a recipient of the Centennial Honors College Sophomore Scholarship, the Lila S. Linder English Scholarship, the Lois C. Bruner Award in Nonfiction, the Cordell Larner Award in Poetry, and the Cordell Larner Award in Fiction, and she has been named to the Dean's List five semesters. Juliana generously consented to an interview to share her experiences of competing for the Cooke for this issue of "With Honors."

Q: What is the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award, and when did you learn about it? How and why did you decide to compete for it?

JG: The Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award was established to support low-income students with an exceptional talent in visual arts and creative writing. The award covers up to \$50,000 for the students' graduate school tuition and expenses for up to three years. I first learned about it last semester after Molly Homer mentioned it to me during an honors advising appointment. Over the summer and the beginning of the school year, I discussed it more with Dr. Hardy. At first, I was a little hesitant about applying because I wasn't sure if my stories were good enough to compete with students across the country who had studied creative writing a lot more than I had. But Dr. Hardy really encouraged me and said that making it to the final round

would be a great accomplishment. After that, I started dreaming about what it would be like to be a finalist and show people that it doesn't matter where you come from or how much you have. If you want something badly enough, you can achieve it!

Q: What has the application process been like? What did you need to prepare for your submission?

JG: The application process was very stressful because I had class, homework, graduate school applications, and a part time job that took up a lot of my free time. Besides transcripts and a list of all the graduate institutions I'm applying to, I also needed a 30-page portfolio of my best creative writing. Luckily, I already had a few stories that had been workshopped during my fiction classes at WIU with Erika Wurth and Barbara Harroun. I knew that my writing sample was the most important part of my application, so I was glad to already have my stories ready to submit. I also needed an online recommendation, and I asked Erika Wurth to submit for me. She was my first creative writing teacher and has really been like a mentor to me even while she's been away on sabbatical.

Q: Have you learned anything valuable from preparing your application?

JG: I've learned that time management is very important. The application was very long and took a lot of work and time insofar as requesting materials and scanning different items. It's important to leave yourself enough time to go back and check your application to make sure you didn't miss anything.

Q: What are your future plans?

JG: After I graduate in May, I hope to attend graduate school and receive my Masters of Fine Arts in Fiction Writing. My ultimate goal is to work as a full time author in Chicago, but until then, I plan to teach creative writing, work in publishing, or anything that allows me to use my skills as a writer.

Congratulations, Juliana, and good luck!



Honors Student of the Month



Sophomore Joshua Diaz, a Chemistry major and Microbiology minor, is this issue's Honors Student of the Month. Joshua is already a student leader on campus, currently serving as the president of the WIU chapter of Blue Key Honor Society after a term as the Society's treasurer and as the founding treasurer of the Western Illinois Swing Dancing Club. He has also recently been inducted into the National Resident Hall Honorary (NRHH), which represents the top 1% of leaders in residence halls.

The spring semester promises to be a busy one for Joshua. He is eager to promote his two organizations and their upcoming activities: "This semester I am planning to work with Blue Key on several service projects, like providing less fortunate families in Macomb with hot meals. Also, I am planning to work with the Western Illinois Swing Dance Club to invite the U of I Swing Dance Club to WIU." Joshua is also enthusiastic about the club's Spring Formal, which will be free to the public. "I am also looking forward to continuing research for chemistry. I am currently working with microwave-mediated synthesis with multi-component reactions and HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography) techniques with ionic liquids. This summer I'm hoping to get a chemistry research position in an REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) program."

Of his first experiences with the Honors College, Joshua recalls, "I met Dr. Hardy and Molly Homer at the interest breakfast meeting at SOAR (Summer Orientation). I was inspired by Dr. Hardy's words. Specifically Dr. Hardy stated, 'Everything made in

this room started from someone's idea.' I joined the Honors College because I wanted to take honors classes that would enhance my perspective and reasoning, perhaps coming up with my own ideas in the process." Now, he says, the Honors College is providing a variety of memorable experiences: "When chemistry caroling season comes around, the Honors College is my favorite stop. To explain, my good friend Hannah and I sing chemistry songs for various people on campus. We always make sure to stop by the Honors College to share our new tunes."

When asked to identify his mentors, Joshua responds, "I would like to recognize two professors. Dr. Ahmad, an introductory inorganic and analytic chemistry professor, has allowed me to conduct research with her since the beginning of my freshman year. Her influence has inspired me to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry, specifically focusing on organic and bioorganic synthesis. Speaking of organic chemistry, my other research professor, Dr. Jin Jin, has been an inspiration in terms of opening my eyes up to the world of organic chemistry. Dr. Jin Jin has also allowed me to do research with her, and I will use this research to write my honors senior thesis."

Joshua plans to continue his academic growth after his undergraduate degree. "My ultimate goal is to become a practicing chemist in organic or bioorganic synthesis. I hope to aid in the drug discovery process by developing novel methods of synthesizing medicines that are not commercially available. In order to do this, of course, I will need pursue a Ph.D. from a doctorate-granting graduate school."

Call for Papers submitted by Dr. Jim McQuillan

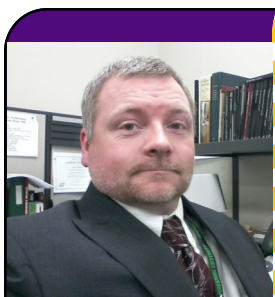


The next Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS) Annual meeting will be on April 25-26, 2014 at Governors State University in University Park, IL. The conference features both student and faculty research presentations in multiple formats, either 15-minute oral presentations or posters. The ISAS has numerous divisions: Agriculture, Anthropology and Archaeology, Botany, Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering and Technology, Environmental Science, Health Sciences, Microbiology, Physics, Mathematics & Astronomy, Science, Mathematics & Technology

Education, and Zoology. The deadline for submitting an abstract is March 15, 2014. Accepted abstracts are published in a Supplement to the Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science.

For additional information, see <http://ilacadofsci.com/meetings>. WIU Professor Jim McQuillan serves as Chair of the Computer Science division and is available for questions. Contact him at JM-McQuillan@wiu.edu

In April 2015 the ISAS will be held here at WIU, with Professors Gilles Kouassi (in Chemistry) and McQuillan serving as conference organizers. Future details about this exciting events will be provided next year, so start thinking about ways you might be able to participate!



Honors Alum Profile

Dr. Paul-Thomas Ferguson is the subject of this issue's Honors Alum Profile. After graduating with Honors while earning a B.A. in History from WIU in 1996, Paul earned an M.A. in Medieval History from Marquette University in 1998 and a Ph.D. in History from Marquette University in 2005, with U.S., Middle Eastern, and Urban History as his areas of emphasis. He is currently employed as an instructor at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA, as a specialist in the history of the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries and popular culture. He also works as an archivist with the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island, IL, with expertise in the history of Army munitions.

Paul has a diverse collection of recent publication credits that reflect achievement in a variety of genres as well as topics of regional interest. Paul served as editor for Edward Bonney's *The Banditti of the Prairies: A Tale of the Mississippi Valley: An Authentic Narrative of Thrilling Adventures in the Earliest Settlement of the Western Country*, a firsthand account of regional crime near Mormon Nauvoo (published in November 2013). He also contributed stories to *Pandemonium*, an anthology of horror, sci-fi, and fantasy stories (published in April 2013), and he is the author of *A History of Quarston*, a fictionalized history of Cornwall and its peoples (published December 2013) and the forthcoming *Watershed*, the first book of the Vishnu Springs Trilogy, to be published this month. Paul's Author Page at Amazon has information on his other publications.

When asked about his involvement with the Honors College and campus organizations and honor societies, Paul recalls, "Based on my GPA, Dr. Gordon Kirk, History Chair, suggested I go for Honors. I briefly considered trying a double Honors, with majors in History and English Literature, but instead I made English Lit my minor and went forward in History Honors. While at WIU, I was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Kappa Phi. I graduated with Honors and was the History Honors selection that year. During my time in graduate school, I was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, based on my undergraduate performance, since WIU did not have a chapter."

Paul writes enthusiastically about his Honors College memories: "I was an older student than most during my undergrad years and never quite fit in with my colleagues. The Honors College was a refuge in a few ways. First, the Honors courses brought together people who cared more about academics than partying, so it was a good opportunity for fellowship. Second, and more important for me, the staff of the Honors College, particularly Patty Battles, was always there if I wanted to chat. I spent many hours in the office, talking about problems, articulating ideas, getting and advice and feedback. The Honors College served as my on-campus club, sounding board, counselor, and confessional. I'm not sure I would have been able to focus without them."



Phi Beta Delta Membership Drive



Honors students are encouraged to consider applying for membership in WIU's Eta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society. The aim of the Phi Beta Delta and the Eta Epsilon chapter is to recognize and encourage high professional, intellectual, academic, and personal achievements in the field of international education at WIU. This chapter serves to encourage international programming and to promote the exchange of ideas and information among an interdisciplinary network of faculty, staff, students, community members, and alumni involved in international endeavors. President Beate Wilson of the Department Sociology and Anthropology states, "Phi Beta Delta is committed to enriching your professional growth by providing you with opportunities to work with international scholars in research and other creative innovations from various international institutions. By being a part of Phi Beta Delta, the Eta Epsilon Chapter, you will not only enrich your academic skills, but also gain invaluable connections and networks." The chapter is accepting applications for membership until February 17, 2014. For more information on Phi Beta Delta and the Eta Epsilon Chapter, including a link to the membership application, please visit:

http://www.wiu.edu/international_studies/phi_beta_delta/.

Honors Faculty Profile

The Honors Faculty Profile features Dr. James Allen Rabchuk, who has been at WIU's Department of Physics for eighteen years. Subsequent to his completion of a B.S. in Physics/Russian from Grinnell College, Dr. Rabchuk earned a University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) High School Teacher certificate followed by a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics from UIC. Dr. Rabchuk teaches a variety of courses in Physics, from PHYS 101 (Astronomy) and PHYS 213 (University Physics III) to PHYS 310 (Engineering Statics), PHYS 482 (Science in Context), and PHYS 555 (Statistical Mechanics). For the past three years, he has also offered a GH 299 course, *Seeing the Invisible*.

Dr. Rabchuk identifies his areas of expertise as Fluid Mechanics, Electrical and Magnetic field simulations, Quantum Information, and Teacher Education. His recent work includes a publication in *American Journal of Physics* with A. Johnson, "A bead on a hoop rotating about a horizontal axis: a one-dimensional ponderomotive trap" and, with D. Hucul, M. Yeo, S. Olmschenk, W. K. Hensinger, and C. Monroe, "On the transport of atomic ions in linear and multidimensional ion trap arrays," published in *Quantum Information and Computation*. He also highlights a Mathematica Demonstration Project titled "Bead on a Horizontally Rotating Hoop with a Moveable Axis"; for more information on the latter, please visit <http://demonstrations.wolfram.com/BeadOnAHorizontallyRotatingHoopWithMovableAxis/>

Dr. Rabchuk describes the Annual Science Demonstration Show and Traveling Demonstration Shows as venues through which he makes his academic specialty accessible for students and public audiences. He has also offered a course in the Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) program, sponsored by WIU's Non-Credit Programs Office, and gave Noble Prize lectures for the general public in 2012 and 2013. On campus, Dr.

Rabchuk serves as a faculty advisor a number of student organizations: University Bible Fellowship, Physics and Engineering Club, Starcraft II Club, and the National Science Teachers Association Student Club.

Dr. Rabchuk has been involved with Honors students as both a mentor and a teacher. He mentored the Honors theses of J. C. Gumbart (2003) and Jacob Buress (2005), "both of whom are now Physics professors," he adds. He developed his GH 299, *Seeing the Invisible*, after years of working with the teacher education program. He states, "I found that, more than content, these candidates needed help in learning how to think and make arguments, skills that weren't confined to just one discipline, and weren't dealt with specifically anywhere. Looking for an avenue that would allow me to develop a course that addressed those issues eventually led me to the Honors College and the General Honors Symposium."

When asked about his reading habits, Dr. Rabchuk identifies a number of favorite books. He cites Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*, Stuart Firestein's *Ignorance: How It Drives Science*, and Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* as books he recommends to others. He reads a number of academic journals and magazines, including *Nature*, *Physical Review Letters*, *Physics Today*, *The Physics Teacher*, *The New Yorker* ("not academic, but helpful nonetheless"), and *Atlantic Monthly*.



Dr. Rabchuk as Captain Kirk at one of his public science demonstrations.

Save the Date: Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day is April 16, 2014

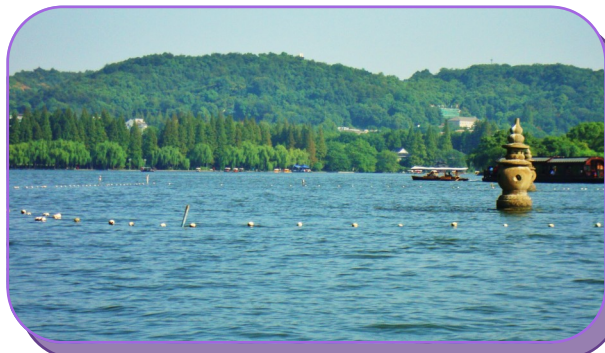
News from Abroad - Honors Student Matt Cook

Last November's issue of "With Honors" included a feature from History Professor Tim Roberts reporting on his time in China as a U.S. Fulbright lecturer. This month, Honors student Matt Cook has volunteered to provide a student perspective of China, following a semester at East China Normal University. Matt, a Marketing major, explains that he decided to study in China after learning that the College of Business and Technology was offering scholarships for Business majors. He says, "I applied for the program of my choice in February and arrived in Shanghai in early September. Classes began September 6th and ended on December 21st. Between those dates there were several excursions to various Chinese cities (Hangzhou, Wuzhen, Xi An, and Hong Kong). The only time I left Mainland China was on the excursion to Hong Kong, which required a visa to enter and return to the Mainland. I was only in the large cities while I was there. I was never able to see a small town by American standards. I did get to go to a water town, called Wuzhen, which was the closest to the countryside in China; it reminded me of pictures of Venice."

Of his educational experiences at East China Normal University, Matt reports, "Most of my classes were business related, but I did take several Chinese courses and a Chinese cinema class. All of the classes, except for Chinese, were taught in English. Except for the professor from France, my professors were Chinese and spoke English as a second language. The classes were Chinese style, which means that they were three hours long and were usually once a week. I had a Chinese tutor that I met for an hour per week. Classes were very small and hands on; most of them were only 5 people. The hardest part was I had to give 16 presentations in Chinese in front of all the teachers."

When asked about his living arrangements, Matt states, "I lived in an international dorm the whole time I was there. It was a Western style room with a sit down toilet. It was very nice most of the time with only minor inconveniences occasionally. Morning water was off for a week due to the construction crew outside, the keys were malfunctioning every now and again, and the lights for a day stopped working. All in all, it was normal for a dorm. However, the most different part was the international aspect of the building. There were Ukrainians, Kazakhstanis, Japanese, Canadians, Kenyans, and Americans hanging out in the halls and the rooms. Although most of the time English was heard in the dorm, several students and faculty could not speak English, and the common language was Chinese." He continues, "Interacting with people who didn't speak English was sometimes incredibly nerve-racking. I found myself pausing many times just trying to remember the

name of the fruit I wanted for a drink. It was very frustrating at times, especially trying to convince the front desk that the dryer was broken and stole my coin. This was a definite test of patience, and I now understand what it feels like for a foreigner outside his/her own country. I also believe this experience allowed me to open my mind more to try new things. One example of going out of my comfort zone was when I tried fish eyes and chicken feet; they were better than they sound, actually. Looking back I can tell that I see the world in a completely different view. It seems to have become much smaller."

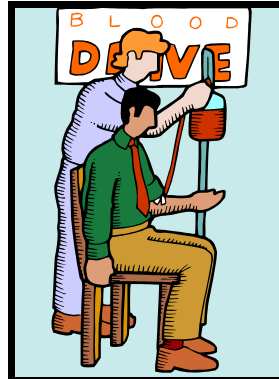


From top: image of the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon in West Lake, Hangzhou; photos of the Nanjing Road in Shanghai.

Golden Key and SHA Blood Drive



The Student Honors Association and the WIU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society are sponsoring a Blood Drive through the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center on Monday, February 17th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Garden Lounge of Malpass Library. Please contact Michele Aurand (MJ-Aurand@wiu.edu) for details on how to get involved! We hope to see you there.



Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10 University Theme Series: Chef Jeff Henderson 7 pm Grand Ballroom	11 <i>The Abolitionists</i> 7-8:30 pm Sandburg Theater	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13 Interviewing Preparation 12-1 pm Memorial 124	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15
16 28th Annual Soul Food Festival 2:00 pm Capitol Rm	17 13th Annual Pre-Law Symposium 5-7 pm Multicultural Center	18 <i>Slavery by Another Name</i> 7-8:30 pm Sandburg Theater	19 Graduate School Seminar Series 4:00 pm Lincoln Rm	20	21 WIU Showcase of Bands 7:30 pm COFAC Recital Hall	22
23	24	25 International Week: Photography Exhibit 3-5 pm Multicultural Center	26	27 International Week: Soup Stories 12-2 pm Multicultural Center	28 Rocky After Dark: Midnight Mardi Gras 12-7 pm Recreation Center	<i>March</i> 1 41st International Bazaar 12-7 pm Grand Ballroom
2	3 Lead Series: Finding Your Work Ethic 6-7 pm SOC—Union Basement	4 <i>The Loving Story</i> 7-8:30 pm Sandburg Theater	5 Graduate School Seminar Series 4:00 pm Capitol Rm	6	7 Cultural Expressions Open Mic Night 9:00 pm Multicultural Center	8

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