

# Centennial Honors College

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WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

## Laurels and Hardy



It is a common misconception that the Honors College *only* cares about students' grade point averages and standardized test scores.

Grades are *very* important because they are academic gauges that signify students' achievement in classes. Grades ideally reflect students' grasp of significant concepts and skills or problem-solving techniques. Grades do not truly measure whether a person is "smart" or "well educated"; rather, they are *measures of preparation*. Students who attend classes regularly, take notes, ask questions, keep up with the reading and complete assignments are generally better prepared and score

higher marks than those who do not. But we also know that levels of preparation are affected by a number of variables such as economic conditions, illness, work hours, and interest in the subject matter. Hence, grades are not perfect predictors of success in life.

Standardized test scores, too, are valuable predictors of academic success. A student who scores a composite of 28 or above on the ACT, for example, is generally much more likely to do well in college, than a student who scores 18 or lower. But standardized scores are far from perfect predictors of success in life. Such tests do not measure creativity, ingenuity, mechanical aptitude, people skills, integrity, or will power.

High grades and standardized test scores are important indicators of academic achievement and

potential, and they are critical criteria used to determine scholarships and academic awards. But they are not the *only things* that the Honors College or other institutions care about.

Increasingly, graduate schools, funding agencies, and employers look at a person's *community involvement and civic leadership*. They want more than just "book worms."

They seek individuals who willingly volunteer their time, knowledge or skills, to help ameliorate societal problems.

The opportunities for community and civic involvement at Western Illinois University are many. Join a civic club. Run for student government. Be part of a worthy cause. Roll up your sleeves and help others in need. Ultimately, everyone benefits from the experience.

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## Why Honors? Why the Centennial Honors College? Community!

According to the National Collegiate Honors Council (2011),

**(An) honors education promotes lifelong learning through personal engagement, intellectual involvement, and a sense of community (<http://www.nchchonors.org/>).**

Here at Western, the Centennial Honors College seeks to encourage student's love for learning, increase their involvement in research and creative endeavors, and encourage their participation in community. Community can occur via participation in the Student Honors Association, living on the resident halls honors floors and participating in social and academic organizations across campus. Small classes and in-course honors projects, theses, and internships help to promote substantive discussion and learning. Both honors students and faculty benefit from this exchange of ideas and once again community is created. Honors students also participate in many community- and campus-based service projects. Find out more by visiting [www.wiu.edu/honors](http://www.wiu.edu/honors). Or stop by the Honors College, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Malpass Library (on the Quad between the library and Stipes Hall), Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

## New Honors Courses Spring 2012

### GH 301 – The Anti-Apartheid Movement

**Instructor: Peter Cole**

Peter Cole is a Professor of History at Western Illinois University. He is a graduate of Columbia University (B.A.) and Georgetown University (Ph.D.).

The Anti-Apartheid Movement is a readings and research seminar that explores the history of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and the anti-apartheid solidarity movement in the United States. Apartheid was one of the 20th Century's most notorious examples of a system of human oppression; while, the fight to overthrow apartheid was one of the Century's greatest examples of how humans, when organized and committed, can overcome tremendous obstacles and extend freedom. Indeed, the global fight against apartheid was, arguably, the most impressive and successful international social movement since the mid-19th Century push for the abolition of slavery worldwide.

### GH 302 – Introduction to Oral History

**Instructor: Cynthia Struthers**

Cynthia Struthers is an Associate Professor of Sociology who works in the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. She is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.A., M.A., and Ph.D.).

Introduction to Oral History will introduce students to the qualitative data collection method of oral history interview. Students will learn how to conduct interviews that can be saved and used in the future at Malpass Library. Students will explore existing photo and audio archives in addition to working with Dr. Struthers and Dr. Jeffrey Hancks, WIU Archivist, to develop an ongoing oral history archive of persons in west central Illinois. The course will include discussion of the legal and ethical issues surrounding the collection of personal stories and the theoretical bases and technical aspects of this method of data collection.

Ask Dr. Homer about the two new GH 299 courses being offered spring of 2012, or see the website for more information.

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## Centennial Honors College Students and Staff Support a Samaritan Well Fundraiser at the Old Dairy on September 10

The Samaritan Well operates two transitional housing shelters in Macomb; one shelter is for women and women with children and is located on Maple Avenue; the men's shelter is located on West Jackson. Transitional housing programs allow residents to develop a plan to stabilize their lives. Residents can remain in shelter from a couple of weeks to six months or longer. For more information go to [www.samaritanwellinc.org](http://www.samaritanwellinc.org) or contact Cindy Struthers in the Honors College, [CB-Struthers@wiu.edu](mailto:CB-Struthers@wiu.edu).



The Samaritan Well extends a huge **thank you** to Janell McGruder, Honors College Office Support Specialist for organizing this event, to honors student Lisa Brown for being “dunked,” and all the Honors Students and campus community who participated. Thank you!

## **In and Around the Campus**

### **IIRA Sustainability Brownbaggers in October**

Sustainability Brownbaggers are held on Tuesdays over the lunch hour from 12:30-1:30 on the 3rd Floor of the Malpass Library.

**October 11:  
Sustainable Energy  
Education** Presented by  
Jolene Willis, Program  
Assistant, Illinois Institute

for Rural Affairs – Wind  
Energy Program; and  
Michele Aurand, Academic  
Advisor, Interdisciplinary  
Studies Program (ISP)

**October 18:  
Climate Change:  
Opportunities for  
Mitigation and Adaptation  
in the U.S. Midwest**

Presented by Joel Gruver,  
Assistant Professor, WIU  
School of Agriculture

**October 25:  
Voices from the Past:  
Warnings about Climate  
Ignored** Presented by  
Timothy Collins, Assistant  
Director, Illinois Institute  
for Rural Affairs.

For more information con-  
tact Dr. Timothy Collins,  
IIRA Assistant Director, at  
309.298.3412 or T-  
Collins@wiu.edu.



### **Bureau of Cultural Affairs – The Flying Karamazov Brothers**

Thursday, October 20, 2011  
at 7:30pm

Grand Ballroom –  
University Union

The Karamazov Brothers are  
a continuing experiment in  
comedy, theatre, music,

and... juggling. From the  
beginning, it has been their  
intention to blend the  
worlds of performance art,  
improvisation, word play,  
harmony, emotion, and  
above all virtuosity into a  
unique form of theatre and

entertainment (Arts Events  
2011-2012).

Public \$20.00; Senior  
Citizens/WIU Employees/  
Youth \$15.00; WIU  
Students FREE with valid  
university ID



### **All Jazz Showcase Concert**

Wednesday, October 12,  
2011 at 7:30pm

COFAC Recital Hall

All of the WIU Jazz  
ensembles will play on this

one concert. Hear the Jazz  
Studio Orchestra, the Jazz  
Band, and all of our jazz  
combos. Sit back, relax, and  
swing out to the sweet  
sounds of the WIU jazz

ensembles (Arts Events 2011-  
2012).

FREE Admission

### **Halloween Concert**

Friday, October 28, 2011 at  
6:30pm (early start time)

COFAC Recital Hall

The annual WIU Symphony  
Orchestra's Halloween  
Concert, a program for  
children for all ages, features

short, colorful orchestral  
pieces that introduce the  
instruments and the sections  
of the orchestra. Audience  
participation includes a  
costume contest, parade,  
and an entertaining  
dialogue with the conductor

and musicians (Arts Events  
2011-2012).

FREE Admission



All that is gold does not glitter; not all those that wander are lost. – J.R.R. Tolkien



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## **Student Honors Association (SHA)**

### **2011-2012**

**Officers:** Brad Fenton, President; Katie Kerperien, Vice President; Joseph Lucas, Secretary; and Brady Childs, Treasurer

**Meetings:** Beginning Monday October 10th, SHA will hold their regular meetings in the 3rd floor lounge of Bayliss Hall. Meetings start at 5:00pm. All students are invited to attend. If you are interested in SHA activities but are unable to attend the meetings provide us with your e-mail address. We will send you updates and reminders of activities. Contact Brad at [BT-Fenton@wiu.edu](mailto:BT-Fenton@wiu.edu) or Cindy Struthers in the Honors College [CB-Struthers@wiu.edu](mailto:CB-Struthers@wiu.edu) or call 298.2228.

#### **Activities:**

The Majors and Organizations Fair, was held Wednesday, September 21 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the University Union.

Student Honors Association met October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobby of Bayliss Hall to inform and promote SHA to students living on the honors floors of the residence halls.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Ice Cream Social in October in the Underground (watch for details [via](#) the Honors College e-newsletter). [Better World Books](#) book drive near the end of the semester. If you have books you would like to donate now - bring them to the Honors College.

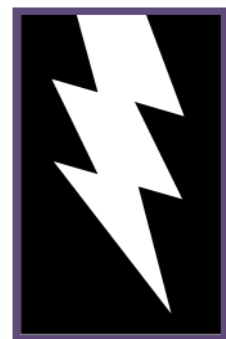
**Watch this space for more information.**

## **Are You Ready to be SHOC'ed?**

Are you an honors association or society that has big ideas and big plans but few members to meet your goals? Are you interested in being a part of a larger honors student presence on campus?

SHA and the Honors College are exploring the creation of a Student Honors Organization Council where honors students and honors associations can share what they are doing, work together on some shared activity, and create a greater honors presence at Western. Rather than compete with one another for students or watch plans fall through due to lack of volunteers SHOC can help create synergy between organizations and cooperation around mutually engaging activities.

Contact Cindy Struthers, Associate Director of the Centennial Honors College at [CB-Struthers@wiu.edu](mailto:CB-Struthers@wiu.edu) or 309.298.2228 or Brad Fenton at [BT-Fenton@wiu.edu](mailto:BT-Fenton@wiu.edu). We can send someone to one of your regularly scheduled meetings to explain our vision for a student organized council for honors organizations. We are interested in your input about this idea.



I have never been able to accept the two great laws of humanity—that you're always being suppressed if you're inspired and always being pushed into the corner if you're exceptional. I won't be cornered and I won't stay suppressed. ~Margaret Anderson