

# *The Freshman Perspective*

The Freshman Orientation Newsletter for John Wesley Scholars

## John Wesley Honors College

Indiana Wesleyan University



### Free Food & Fellowship with the JWHC

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us for three New Student Orientation events hosted by the John Wesley Honors College and stu-

dent leaders from the Honors College Student Association. Free food and new friends! What more could you ask for during orientation?!

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#### **JWHC Cook-out for Incoming Students & Parents**

Friday, September 2, 5:00-6:30 pm  
Lawn outside Goodman Hall

#### **JWHC Pancake Breakfast**

Monday, September 5, 8:00-9:30 am  
Lawn outside Epworth House, the gathering place for JWHC student events throughout the year (rain site: Goodman Hall)

#### **JWHC Reception**

Monday, September 5, 1:30-2:45 pm  
Burns Hall Rooftop Plaza

# Undergraduate Research

## Honors Research Tutorials

Because students experience greater intellectual growth and maturity when their learning experiences are rooted in inquiry and discovery, undergraduate research is a staple of the John Wesley Honors College curriculum from the freshman through the senior year. Honors College students work collaboratively with faculty researchers from a variety of academic areas to engage real-world problems in Honors Research Tutorials. John Wesley Scholars take two Research Tutorials of their choosing, usually during their freshman or sophomore year.

**Past topics** have included:

Grace in the Early Church  
Singleness in Britain's Long-Eighteenth Century, 1688 – 1714  
Narnians, Hobbits, Tesseractites, and Vampires: The Nature, Structure, and Function of Mythopoeic Literature  
The Religious and Social History of the 1960s  
Justice unto All Peoples  
Wesley, Women, and Witness  
The Northern Civil Rights Movement  
Problems in Narnia and Middle-Earth: Friendships, Love, and God  
From Bill Graham to Rob Bell: A History of Modern Evangelicalism in the United States  
God Talk: The Complexities of Calling God "Father"  
Paleography: The Study of Old Handwriting  
The Sacramental Imagination: Glimpses of God in Fiction  
Religion, Race, and Resistance: The White Church's Response to the Black Freedom Struggle, 1950-1975



## Honors Scholarship Projects

Through Honors Scholarship Projects, JWHC juniors and seniors pursue their own research and creative projects under the mentorship of a professor in their discipline, presenting their work at IWU's annual Celebration of Scholarship. Such experiences develop a critical appreciation for the relevance of liberal learning and scholarly inquiry to daily life, and they strengthen intellectual skills that are essential to creative and thoughtful servant-leadership (e.g., analytical thinking, critical and reflective reading, well-expressed writing, and articulate oral communication).

Students have explored a wide variety of interests over the years. **Titles of recent projects** include:

Art and the Blind: Making the Visual Arts Accessible to the Visually Impaired  
Darys: A Vampire's Trial (a novel)  
M\*A\*S\*H: Just Another Funny Show?  
Developing Distinctively Christian Business Students Through Business Education  
Alcoholics Anonymous Affiliation and Faith Development: A Pilot Study  
The Role of Gender, Identity, and Honor in the Egyptian Revolution of 2011  
Servant Leadership and the Australian Aboriginal Culture  
Understanding Grace in Augustine's Sermons  
An Ethnographic Study of Brooks Residential College at Baylor University

# Undergraduate Research

Each spring, Indiana Wesleyan University sets aside several days for a **Celebration of Scholarship**, in which we showcase the achievements of our undergraduate scholars, increase awareness of the research and scholarship opportunities available, and challenge faculty and students to think more deeply about what it means to be a Christ-centered community of academic excellence.

## Celebration of Scholarship

Celebration of Scholarship is where most of you will present your undergraduate research and creative projects (the Honors Scholarship Project). The event culminates in the Faith and Learning Luncheon, in which a guest speaker shares about a topic related to the Christian academic vocation.



## Honors UNV-180 Required Texts for the Fall Semester

You will need to purchase the following books for UNV-180 with Dr. Riggs:

Timothy George, *Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?: Understanding the Differences between Christianity and Islam* (Grand Rapids, 2002).

James Smith, *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church* (Grand Rapids, 2006).

Robert Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* (Grand Rapids: 2006).

N. T. Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense* (New York, 2006).

N. T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters* (New York, 2010).



# Introducing JWHC Faculty

*In this issue, we continue to introduce you to more JWHC faculty, as well as other IWU faculty who teach Honors Courses.*



**Dr. Rusty Hawkins**  
**Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, 2009-12**

Dr. Hawkins was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, and graduated from Wheaton College in 1999. After spending three years in Bozeman, Montana (where he received an M.A. in American history from Montana State University), Dr. Hawkins and his wife Kristi moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where they ran literacy programs in some of the city's under-served public elementary schools. After a year in New England, Dr. Hawkins began his doctoral studies at Rice University in Houston, Texas, and earned his Ph.D. in American history in 2009.

Dr. Hawkins's research interests primarily revolve around issues of race, religion, and politics in the twentieth-century American South. His dissertation, *Religion, Race, and Resistance: White Evangelicals and the Dilemma of Integration in South Carolina, 1950-1975*, examines the way white Christians' religious beliefs caused them to work against the civil rights movement in the South. He will be teaching an Honors Research Tutorial this fall.

Dr. Hawkins and Kristi have two sons, Caleb and Micah. In addition to spending time with his wife and boys, he enjoys reading (obviously), running (not as often as he should), and rooting for his favorite sports teams (the Kansas Jayhawks and the Kansas City Chiefs).



**Dr. Amy L. B. Peeler**  
**Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, 2010-12**

Dr. Peeler is a proud alumna of Oklahoma Baptist University (B.A., Biblical Languages, 2002) and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div., 2005; Ph.D., New Testament Studies, 2011). Hailing from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, she has desired to be a teacher for as long as she can remember and has had a passion for biblical studies since college. Professor Peeler's dissertation, *"You Are My Son": The Family of God in the Epistle to the Hebrews*, explores how the Father/Son relationship between God and Jesus evoked throughout Hebrews contributes to the shape of the letter's theology, Christology, and soteriology. Her other research interests include biblically informed theological language, the influence of Israel's Scriptures on the New Testament, the Pauline epistles, and creational theology. She will be teaching Honors New Testament this fall.

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Dr. Peeler is married to her best friend and high school beau, Dr. Lance Peeler, an accomplished pianist, organist, and church music historian. They are blessed with a precious three-year-old daughter, Kate, and baby boy, Maxson. Dr. Peeler enjoys early mornings, running, reading history and biography, yard sales, fine films, and good Thai food.

# Introducing JWHC Faculty



**Dr. Lance Peeler**  
**Adjunct Honors Faculty for Honors Forum on Faith and the Arts**

Dr. Peeler (B.M., Oklahoma Baptist University; M.M., Westminster Choir College of Rider University; M.Phil., Ph.D., Drew University) is originally from Oklahoma City, although he lived in New Jersey for eight years before moving to Marion. Dr. Peeler's dissertation, *The Baptist Hymnal for Use in the Church and Home: Its Development, Content, and Reception* examines how the theological and musical diversity of the editorial board of the 1883 Baptist Hymnal produced a diverse and popular hymnal, including everything from Anglican chant to Sunday school and gospel hymns. His research interests include hymnology, nineteenth-century Christianity, the implications of music used in worship, and church architecture.

Dr. Peeler is married to Dr. Amy Peeler, a JWHC Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow. They have two children: Kate and Maxson. Dr. Peeler enjoys playing piano, organ, or really any instrument; listening to and playing Bach; excellent films; cooking; gardening; photography; and exploring old church buildings.

## Other IWU Faculty Teaching JWHC Courses



**Dr. Paul Allison**  
Humanities World Literature



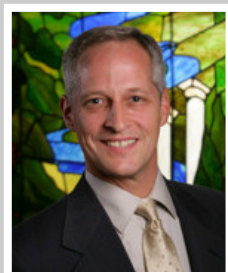
**Dr. Steve Horst**  
Humanities Philosophy



**Dr. Mark Smith**  
Summer Scholars Faculty



**Dr. Chris Bounds**  
Liberal Learning & Life-Calling Portfolio



**Dr. Steve Lennox**  
Old Testament & Liberal Learning & Life-Calling Portfolio



**Dr. Willem Van De Merwe**  
Impacts of Science on Faith & Society

# Getting to Know JWHC Student Staff

About a dozen JWHC students work in the Honors College office in Goodman Hall, assisting with a variety of tasks and serving our community of students and faculty. Our Ambassadors staff the front desk and will welcome and help you when you visit the office. The Admissions Assistants assist in recruiting the next class of JWHC students. You may have met them at Honors Preview or talked with one of them on the phone last year. Finally, the Academic Program Assistants support the many academic events that take place in the JWHC, including Honors Forum. If you are interested in working in the JWHC, watch your email for job announcements. We usually hire several students every year.

## Ambassadors



**Kelsey Davitt,  
Team Leader**

*Major:* Pre-Med Biology

*Year:* Junior

*Hometown:* Rockford, Illinois

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* World Civ—I loved the small class, and Dr. Hawkins made it fun!

*Best place to relax on campus:* McConn

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Hang out in the game room or watch movies.



**Jaki Brueggen**

*Major:* Nursing, Inter-cultural Minor

*Year:* Junior

*Hometown:* Anderson, Indiana

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* I have honestly loved all of my honors classes, so that question is really hard for me. I think it would be a very close tie between UNV-180 with Dr. Riggs and Dr. Toland's last research tutorial (Paleography) on wills in Early Modern England. I honestly loved this class so much because it is completely unlike my major, so it gave me

something else to think about when I was tired of studying.

*Best place to relax on campus:* Honestly, I don't get to spend a ton of time relaxing, but when it does occur, I would probably say the dorms (after picking up some coffee at McConn). Getting to know the people you live with is a vital part of the college experience, and if you never spend time in your dorm, you are missing out on so much!

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* SLEEP! Lol. Not going to lie, I am a very sleep-deprived person, and it is a common ailment for college students. But I also have a very active social life. So I try to take sensible breaks from studying to hang out with friends, make coffee runs, play card games with my roomies, participate in campus events, go to Honors College events and parties, participate in Honors College Senate, and more than anything, spend quality time with God. I love that IWU has so many different opportunities for students to go deeper with God, and I would definitely encourage you to take advantage of those opportunities — it is very easy for your relationship with God to get lost in the pile of things to do if you aren't intentional about it.

*Advice for freshmen:* I am a very wordy person, so I could probably go on and on with things I have learned over the past two years, but I'll try to sum it up. :)

- Keep God as your ultimate focus. College is a new time in your life, and it is easy to get so busy that you put God on the back burner. But this is the time in your life when you need his direction more than anything else! So learn to be intentional about that.



# Getting to Know JWHC Student Staff

- Make friends with upperclassmen! Being a part of the HC gives you such wonderful opportunities to connect with students who have been there, done that, and want to encourage you! They have been wonderful role models and “big siblings” who honestly pulled me through a lot of rough times during my first two years of college. So take advantage.
- Participate! College only happens once, so when in doubt, get out of your comfort zone and just do it. You won’t regret it, I promise.
- Always be a learner. I am now halfway through college and there are still things I feel like I am learning to do more efficiently — like studying. It takes time to figure out your niche, so don’t be frustrated if things don’t happen quite like you were expecting. College is a time for having adventures and learning new things. Keep a good attitude, and you will learn to enjoy every part of the experience.



**Hilary Moore**

*Major:* Psychology

*Year:* Senior

*Hometown:* Xenia, Ohio

*Best JWHC class so far and why:* Narnians, Hobbits, Tesseractites, and Vampires with Dr. Bressler. It was a small

group that got close, and we had an amazing time engaging the books. Dr. Bressler is an incredible professor who taught me more about God in that class than in chapel, no contest.

*Best place to relax on campus:* Relax? What's that? When it's warm, the best place is under the tree on Goodman Lawn.

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Have coffee dates with friends.

*Advice for freshmen:* Invest in the JWHC community. Your class and the classes above and

(eventually) below you may be some of your best friends. Don't freak out — you really will be okay. Make sure you still have hobbies outside of school, and include some sanity time in your schedule, whether or not you think you have time for it. You are not defined by your grades or your GPA. We love you and are so excited to welcome you to IWU!!!!



**Emily Smith**

*Year:* Sophomore

*Hometown:* Carmel, Indiana

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* This question is too hard. But, I think that my favorite so far is Philosophy with Dr. Ream. It was the first HC [which stands for Honors

College] class that I took, and it was a wonderful experience. Dr. Ream is a wonderful professor, and I appreciated his encouragement as I adjusted to college classes. Dr. Ream and his wife had the class over to their house for dinner twice, and I appreciated the way that he was willing to open his house to us and to just invest in us. One of the things that you do in that class is analyze a CD's philosophy, which is interesting and fun. And the class discussion is great too.

*Best place to relax on campus:* McConn is great for hanging out with people and unwinding. The prayer chapel is wonderful if you need to get away from all the busyness of life and just spend time with God.

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Spending time with people!!! (which is great because you can even do this while you are studying). I love to talk to people (maybe a little too much), and I love being able to laugh with my friends.

*Advice for freshmen:*

- Make time for the things which you want to do. If you just tell yourself that you are going

# Getting to Know JWHC Student Staff

to spend regular times with God and are going to work out, it might happen on a sporadic basis. But, if you actually put those things into your daily schedule, there is a much higher chance that you will actually do them.

- Find a group of close friends that you can invest in. Everyone needs a group of people that they can talk to and also just enjoy spending time with them.
- Do your homework with friends. The best way to study is to go to Teter or a study room in the library with friends. This probably isn't the most time effective way to study, but you will have fun and you will get lots of things done too. (But, if you really need to focus on your homework, find a place where you can be alone to study.)
- Get enough sleep. If you sleep enough the night before a test you will probably do much better than if you pull an all-nighter trying to cram facts into your sleepy brain.
- Laugh a lot! It makes life so much more enjoyable
- Don't be afraid to do goofy things.
- Talk to lots of people! Even introverts can do this. There are so many wonderful people on campus to be friends with.
- Don't forget to talk to your family at home. Keep them updated on what you are doing.



**Rachael Stephen**

*Major:* Interior Design/  
Spanish

*Year:* Sophomore

*Hometown:* Charleston,  
West Virginia

*Favorite class so far in  
the JWHC and why:* Eng-  
lish 180 because Dr. Bressler is awesome. He

made class so much fun, and I hated when class ended!

*Best place to relax on campus:* I love being outside when the weather is nice. Take advantage of it while it lasts!

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Probably sleeping. :) Or hanging out with friends.

*Advice for freshmen:* Use a calendar. My recommendation is buy a big desk calendar and write everything on it. And use it! Staying on top of assignments/tests/projects will take off so much stress.



**Laurel Stone**

*Major:* International Relations, Cognate in Economics, Minor in Public Policy

*Year:* Senior

*Hometown:* South Bend,  
Indiana

*Favorite Class so far in the  
JWHC and why:* Tie between 1960s Research Tu-

torial with Dr. Ream and Liberal Learning Tutorial. I loved learning about the historical and political implications of the cultural changes in the 1960s, and the hands on research experience at Butler University has helped me in my other research classes. In Liberal Learning Tutorial, I absolutely love the lectures and discussions, especially by Dr. Bressler on C. S. Lewis, that we have throughout the semester. Even though it's only a one credit hour class, the material covered throughout the semester strengthens you not only academically, but spiritually as well.

*Best place to relax on campus:* On a sunny day — a beach blanket on Goodman lawn. On a rainy / cold day — McConn

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* I'm the president of a club called Model United Nations, and we like to come up with ways to increase campus awareness about global issues. My time is often taken up with either researching



# Getting to Know JWHC Student Staff

world events, preparing for the international conference at Harvard, or organizing a book drive to promote literacy programs around the world.

*Advice for freshmen:* Time Management!!! Learn to manage your time — it saves you so much trouble. I'm still getting the hang of it unfortunately. Make a list of goals to accomplish each day, and do not procrastinate (no matter how far away a deadline seems...). But most importantly, keep God (instead of stress and anxiety) first. Your time at college will not be worth it if you have forgotten to keep the most important thing (person) at the center of your life. :)



**Paige Vacha**

*Major:* Nursing

*Year:* Senior

*Hometown:* My parents live in Kent, Ohio, but I graduated from Wadsworth, Ohio, and was born in Indianapolis.

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* World Literature. In the process of reading all types of literature and participating in group projects, I learned a lot about World Lit but even more about myself. The class challenged me in many ways, and it is really nice to have a class that isn't science oriented.

*Best place to relax on campus:* The first place that comes to my mind is the library. I really enjoy sitting by the windows in the library and reading a good book. Most nights, though, you can find me with some of my friends in Epworth. :-)

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* I really enjoy going to McConn and then going on walks talking with people.

*Advice for freshmen:* "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

## Academic Program Assistants



**Taryn Coates**

*Major:* Secondary Social Studies Education

*Year:* Sophomore

*Hometown:* Well, I'm a military kid, so I don't have a home, traditionally speaking. I claim a little piece of the Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Japan, San Diego, Sicily, North Carolina, and now, Indiana. :)

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* Oh goodness! You will sympathize completely with my dilemma after sitting in class with each of the wonderful HC profs! Tough choice... I immensely enjoyed World Lit with Dr. Bressler because of the perspective he offers on the Christian life and the ways literature ties in or exemplifies our participation in Christianity. We also laughed a lot in that class. It was fantastic.

*Best place to relax on campus:* When the weather is nice, doing homework out on the lawn or sitting somewhere in the sun is super relaxing. Also, the couches in Epworth are really comfy!

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* I enjoy just talking with friends over coffee or dinner. Watching a good chic-flick is also fun after a long day of study.

*Advice for freshmen:* Try to keep a broad perspective. Recognize the ways small moments and decisions are shaping your college experience as a whole and forming your long-term character. At the same time, don't freak out unduly over small things. Just take one day (and one assignment!) at a time! Also, laugh a lot. Truly, laughter makes everything better!



**Questions about the JWHC? Contact**  
**honors.office@indwes.edu**  
**or 765-677-1441, and we'll**  
**be happy to assist you.**

# Getting to Know JWHC Student Staff



**Alicia Feuling**

*Major:* TESOL-Education and Spanish Minor

*Year:* Sophomore

*Hometown:* Lombard, Illinois, 20 miles from downtown Chicago)

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* Tie between New Testament and Honors Forum. I learned SO much in New Testament class and still use things that I have gleaned in my personal devotions, but I love Forum and all of the events!

*Best place to relax on campus:* McConn

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Hang out with friends, travel, roller-blade, or prank call.

*Advice for freshmen:* YOU CAN DO IT! If we survived, you can too!

## Admissions Assistants



**Jeffrey Dunn,  
Team Leader for  
Admissions and  
Financial Assistant**

*Major:* Political Science and Business Administration

*Year:* Senior

*Hometown:* Indianapolis

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* Dr. Ream's Research Tutorial on Justice, which was great because I enjoyed the philosophical musings paired with practical application. This class was really tough and challenged my thinking while keeping a down-to-earth balance, which is something I greatly appreciate in Dr. Ream's tutorials.

*Best place to relax on campus:* I'm a fan of the Epworth House for small groups of friends, or dorm lobbies for some good conversations and a noisier atmosphere.

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Racquetball is the best! If you don't know how to play, I'll be glad to teach you. I really enjoy any competitive sport or game.

*Advice for freshmen:* I first arrived at IWU knowing almost no one, and I believe this is the case of most freshman. My advice is to view this as a huge opportunity, especially for friendships. Do a ton of activities with a lot of different people, and from there you can quickly learn where the closest friendships will develop. I've made some life-long friends and had many great experiences. Make sure to have a great time, but also keep up with the UNV-180 reading and freshman academic work.



**Olivia Ortmann**

*Major:* International and Community Development

*Year:* Sophomore

*Hometown:* Kokomo, Indiana

*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* I really have enjoyed them all so it is hard to choose! To name

a few...World Literature, World Changers, and Dr. Peeler's Research Tutorial.

*Best place to relax on campus:* McConn!

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* I love to hang out with friends, play the piano, and eat at La Charreada's! :)

*Advice for freshmen:* Sleep! Learn when you need to say no and rest! Take time to talk with people and invest in relationships. And most of all, pursue Jesus with all that you are and make time to simply listen.

# Getting to Know JWHC Student Staff



**Natalie Wierenga**

*Major:* Secondary Education and English

*Year:* Junior

*Hometown:* Winfield, Illinois

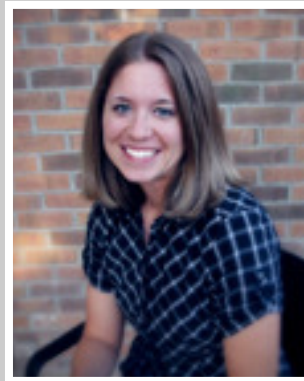
*Favorite class so far in the JWHC and why:* For the humanities: World Literature, because I am an English major, need I say more? For other honors classes: honors scholarship project, because I have the opportunity to work with one of our professors, other students, and *Lord of the Rings* (ask me about it some time, I would love to talk with you about it).

*Best place to relax on campus:* The sun room next to commons or the movies at the Globe.

*Favorite thing to do when you're not studying:* Catching up with friends, be it walking around campus or sitting in commons.

*Advice for freshmen:* In college there are a lot of opportunities: keep organized and keep your priorities. Get involved, certainly, but remember that God always comes first, being with other people is important for your sanity, and sleep needs to be in there somewhere. College is filled with wonderful possibilities, and I am excited as you begin this new adventure!

## JWHC Graduate Assistant



**Holly Willman**

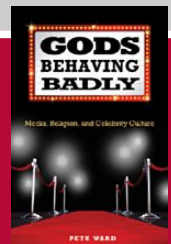
Holly Willman is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis (B.A., English) and is currently pursuing her masters degree in Student Development Counseling and Administration at Indiana Wesleyan. Her heart is to serve college students as they make work and life choices.

Holly lived in Madison, Wisconsin, for several years and is spending this summer there as well. When not working as a JWHC graduate assistant or diligently studying for classes, Holly loves reading, writing, playing guitar, and tearing up the ultimate frisbee field.

In the JWHC, Holly helps keep the office on track and brings laughter and joy to students and faculty who visit the front desk. She will also be serving as an intern with the Honors UNV 180 sections, helping you all transition well to life at IWU and in the JWHC.

## Discussion Questions for *Gods Behaving Badly*

In preparation for our discussion on the UNV 180 summer read (*God's Behaving Badly: Media, Religion, and Celebrity Culture*), please review the following reading prompts and be ready to respond to them when we meet together during New Student Orientation for our discussion.



1. What is the essence of Pete Ward's thesis in *God's Behaving Badly*?
2. Every society and culture communicates its cherished conception of "the good life" through its daily practices, "rituals," and "icons." Based on the book's analysis of "celebrity worship" and your own observations, describe our society's ideal vision of "the good life" and some of the ways (often very subtle) that this vision saturates our everyday lives. In other words, how does our culture define ideals such as "happiness," "beauty," "health," and "success"; and how do these ideals influence our understanding of who we are and who we should aspire to be?
3. How has our culture's vision of "the good life" influenced American Church life?
4. How should a Christian respond to "celebrity culture": Avoid it? Critique it? Use it to evangelize? Transform it?

\*As a reminder, JWHC students are not required to write the paper on *Gods Behaving Badly*, which has been assigned for the general sections of UNV 180. However, the reading assignment and your participation in the book discussion will factor into your course grade for Honors UNV 180.



# John Wesley Scholar Abroad



*Rachel Potter, a rising junior in the John Wesley Scholars Program, spent the spring 2011 semester studying abroad in Australia.*

I don't know why you decided to be in the Honors College. Maybe it was a long, drawn out decision, but I remember joining thinking, "Eh, why not?" That was also how I responded when the thought of studying abroad popped in my head one day. I'm not sure what I was thinking, or even if I was, but somehow I ended up in Australia last semester.



I partially blame Dr. Riggs. During UNV-180, he totally sells Christian Liberal Education to you. You learn to love learning, even outside of your major. I think the rebel in me wanted to test all those ideas, so for a semester I put my career path and precious 4-year-plan on hold. I spent a semester away from science and took classes in history, theology, and dance instead. (Shout out to the HC because if it weren't for them, I wouldn't have been able to fit this semester in and still graduate with a chemistry degree on time!)

Australia was amazing beyond words. I got to live in beautiful Sydney and eat my lunch on the steps of the Opera House whenever I so desired. I got to sleep under the stars in the out-back, play the didgeridoo with Aboriginals, snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef, hike rainforests in Melbourne, and yes, even pet a kangaroo....and eat one too for that matter.



Australia was amazing, but it was also really difficult because it was out of my comfort zone. For me, coming to college wasn't leaving my comfort zone because I was doing something I was good at. Being abroad was my time of throwing caution to the wind and allowing myself to be vulnerable to failure, and it was my time to learn to see God's world through God's eyes.



My last week abroad was spent in New Zealand. The natives there have a word, "Tūrangawaewae," which means, "the place of your feet." It means acknowledging where you are and who you are; recognizing those whose lives have positioned you where you are today, while you are advancing forward towards your future. This was the most important thing I learned in Australia. I learned to look back, and see the giants on whose shoulders I sit. I learned to look forward and see the importance of my life outside of school or careers. I also learned to look around me and appreciate the people surrounding me on the journey. I'm so glad y'all are going to be a part of that journey. I can't wait to meet you. Welcome to the HC! If you want to have a chat to me about Oz, find me in the fall and we'll get McConn!

# Not Even Solomon

*During May Term, Allison Schroer wrote a series of devotionals, entitled "Not Even Solomon: Lessons from a Piece of Eden," for her Environment and Society course and based on her observations of one spot over the course of the term. This is the third one that we have included in the Freshman Perspective. Allison is a rising senior in the Mary C. Dodd Honors Program and an English education major.*

## **Stop to listen. A life lesson from an Eastern Cottontail rabbit.**

*"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Revelation 3:22)*

Today I was blessed by an uncommon sighting in my nature walks; an Eastern Cottontail was venturing out from some trees and stopped when I was about fifty yards away. They are generally solitary animals that wander out at night, so I was surprised to see large ears and a fluffy white tail nestled in the grass. My time with the rabbit was very short, since I eventually had to keep walking, but I was struck by its attentiveness to my movement. Despite this herbivore's small size, it has been equipped with a pair of ears large enough to discern the arrival of predators. The rabbit made me consider: am I listening for the right voice?



Our brains are often over-saturated with noise — verbal and visual. I am reminded of this every time I return home from college and go to the mall with my mother. Companies market to our senses, not just our minds, and we buy into the noise. In fact, we buy in to drown out the noise through self-help books and products. It's no small wonder that discerning God's voice is difficult, when a thousand other cries are demanding our attention.

Sometimes we attempt to listen, but it seems as if the Lord is silent. We call out like the Psalmist, asking that he give ear to our pleas and intervene on our behalf. In this case, Oswald Chambers says that "God will give you the very blessings you ask if you refuse to go any further without them, but his silence is the sign that he is bringing you into an even more wonderful understanding of himself...He has trusted you in the most intimate way possible — with absolute silence." The Lord will strip away our demands that he provide words and we will be met with all we need: his presence.

Regardless whether God is providing a torrent of words or complete silence, he has provided us ears to listen with for a purpose. Many times Scripture records Jesus saying, "He who has ears, let him hear." Why? In John 10:27, he says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." We don't listen for God as if he is a fortune teller, waiting to give us answers. We remain attentive because we have no other option. As his sheep, we truly are lost without him. Because of this, we must continually be listening — regardless of whether we think we need to hear from him or not. Don't just give him one hour a week or 15 minutes during the day, always be ready for him to share part of himself with you.

Let's take Eli's advice, and remember to continually say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9).

# Featured Freshmen

## Rachel Eldridge

**Home:** New Albany, Indiana (right across from Louisville, Kentucky)

**Major:** Pre-Declared

**Favorite Bible verse:** “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.” Jude 3

**Hobbies or interests:** Cello, writing, working with little kids, origami, the pro-life movement



**Best high school experience:** All the freedom and support I had to try new things

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Getting a fish for my dorm room! ;)

**If I could have any superpower:** I'd like to snap my fingers and instantly return life to times when I've “wished this day could last forever.” It would be like a vacation whenever I wanted it.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive: ???**

**Favorite word:** Melancholy, because it always reminds me of when Madame Blueberry (from Veggie-Tales) said, “Even my god is a melan-collie.”

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** When I was seven or eight, I would sneak out of bed really early each morning to try to get my school work done before my brother did his. It's funny because I would never do that now — I am NOT a morning person.

## David Johnson

**Home:** That is rather hard to explain. I like to say podunk Whitley County because that is the best answer. My closest neighbor is at least a quarter mile away, and I have to drive to get anywhere. On top of that, my address is for one town (Larwill), my phone number another (Etna), and school district is a completely different one (Columbia City), so podunk Whitley County will have to do.

**Major:** Christian Ministries with a Biblical Languages Minor

**Favorite quote or Bible verse:** If I have to choose one it's Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’” Others include “Don't tell God how big your storm is, tell the storm how big your God is” and “Life is fragile, handle with prayer.”

**Hobbies or interests:** I enjoy running, singing, acting, spending time with my friends, studying my Bible, writing, and just being a total dork at times.

**Best high school experience:** Our high school has a gospel choir that traveled to different churches in the area and sings about forty times a year. I was a part of

that for four years and that is my favorite memory. I made friendships in that class that will last a lifetime as well as memories that will keep me laughing for years to come.



**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Growing in my abilities and in my relationship with God.

Also, I can't wait to make new friends and new memories.

**If I could have any superpower:** Love without fear. So many people, including me, are afraid to let their heart love others in general, not just a significant



# Featured Freshmen

other/future spouse, because they fear hurt. I would really find it awesome if I could love others without the fear of their hurting me, not because they wouldn't, but because I could handle the hurt.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive:** Rich Mullins. A big thank you to Aaron Morrison (John Wesley Scholar and Student Government Association President) for reintroducing me to this man and his music. I heard it and fell in love with it. I would want to hear him sing and just talk to him about why he wrote what he wrote. The passion in his music is enormous and the words are powerful.

**Favorite word:** I can't say that I have one. I really like the names of God in the ancient Greek and Hebrew languages. They just have so much power when you say them, and they say so much about who God is and how awesome he is.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I never met a stranger. My mom had to instill the fear of strangers into me. If I didn't know you, I'd walk up to you and start talking. I remember once where I was riding on a plane and got seated away from my mother and brother with a total stranger. She and I played cards and talked for the entire trip. This happened when I was around 10 years old. I never knew a stranger.

## Phil Ross

**Home:** Mundelein, Illinois, a small town about an hour north of Chicago. Lots of farm animals out here.

**Planned major:** Christian Ministries

**Favorite quote:** It's from the movie *Bruce Almighty*, when God (as played by Morgan Freeman) says, "If you want to see the miracle, be the miracle." Actions speak louder than words.

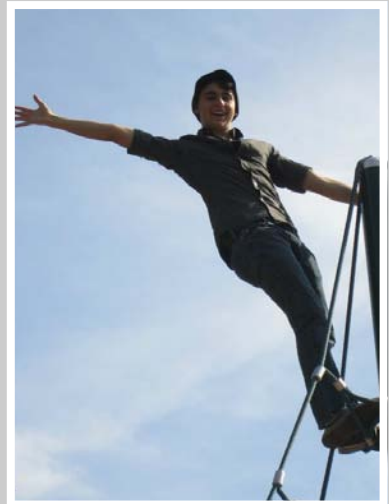
**Hobbies and interests:** Singing, dancing, acting, playing guitar, video games, and hanging out with friends. I've been involved in show choir — singing choral songs while doing intense choreographed dance — for a long time now, and I'm really gonna miss singing and dancing my heart out on stage with the thirty-some kids I call my family. But I'm hoping to be involved with the performing arts at IWU, despite the fact that I'll be

working my butt off in class. I gotta make time to express myself, though. I'm an expressive guy.

**Best high school experience:** Being involved in show choir and theatre at my school. The quirkiness and raw energy of both groups encouraged me to break out of my shell and want to be social. If I didn't get involved with either of them, I probably wouldn't be anywhere close to attending IWU.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Meeting new people. I've spent my entire life with the same groups of friends, and I'm finally gonna get a chance to meet kids who don't know anything about me. I'm also hoping to meet some people with awesome southern accents, so if you have one, let me know!

**If I could have any superpower:** Flying, because of the adrenaline rush I'd get from swooping around in the sky. I love feeling alive!



**If I could meet anyone, dead or alive:** I would want to meet David Foster, because he has written for, produced, and worked with so many amazing voices that I love (Michael Bublé, Andrea Bocelli, and Josh Groban, just to name some).

**Favorite English word:** "Befuddled," which is synonymous with the word "confused." I tend to use it a lot to while talking to friends.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** When I was little, I used to watch a different Disney movie every morning (I was home-schooled as a toddler) and spent the remainder of the afternoon pretending I was a character from each movie. My favorite one? Thumper from *Bambi*.

# Featured Freshmen

## Allison Sass

**Home:** Copley, Ohio

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite Bible verse:** "This is what the LORD says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.'" Jeremiah 29:10-12.



**Hobbies or interests:** Reading, knitting, and crafts. My favorite sport is volleyball. If I could have played any sport in high school it would have been lacrosse or the swim team.

**Best high school experience:** The Dominican Republic trip after junior year was an amazing opportunity to bond with my class and

grow in my faith through ministry in the Dominican. Also, I will never forget my Calculus classes with Mrs. Kamp.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** The community and social life outside of class. I cannot wait to make new friends and even reconnect with old friends. I am also very excited to begin my studies in nursing.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would choose invisibility or the ability to change shape and morph like Elastigirl. Invisibility would be fun, but the ability to stretch and morph would be very practical.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive:** Without a doubt, I would love to meet C. S. Lewis or Dr. Seuss. I did term papers on Lewis and Geisel during high school. I admire them both for different reasons.

**Favorite word:** Edit because of my favorite phrase "edited it."

**Strange thing I did as a child:** I was in kindergarten when my mom and I went to Breugger's Bagels one evening. We walked up to the door only to find that the shop was closed. When my mom told me the bad news, I started bawling. A guy inside the store saw me and gave us the left over bagels from the day free of charge.

## Amy Sloan

**Home:** Mansfield, Ohio

**Major:** Biology/Pre-Med

**Favorite Bible verse:** "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

**Hobbies or interests:** Music, water sports, Indianapolis Colts, running, yoga, reading, Starbucks!

**Best high school experience:** Being a part of IMAGE, which is an outreach choir.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Moving on to the next stage of my life and learning and being a part of so many new things.

**If I could have any superpower:** Breathing underwater, I want to swim with the fish!

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive:** I would choose to meet William Shakespeare. If I could just have a few hours to talk to him and see what was going on in his mind when he was writing.



# Featured Freshmen

I think he is an absolute genius, and he had an amazing way of writing about all the different aspects of love.

**Favorite word:** Huzzah! It's incredibly fun to say.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I always wanted to be a ballerina when I was little. I would dress up in tutus and wear them everywhere and dance around the house. Then as I got older I realized that I was not exactly graceful.

## Katrina Swan

**Home:** Marion, Indiana

**Major:** I am double majoring in Fine Arts and Writing, but have felt God calling me to change my major to Psychology and either major or minor in Fine Arts.



**Favorite quote or Bible verse:** There are too many good things that have been said! But for the time being, Luke 14:33 is really speaking to me. Also, I've always loved this quote by Bill Cosby who said "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is try to please everyone."

**Hobbies or interests:** I love anything art related but my favorite artistic outlet is painting. I play soccer, hockey, tennis, and practice yoga (excluding the Hindu-

ism spirituality/chakra/karma part). Health and balance is very important to me. I am interested politics and psychology/sociology.

**Best high school experience:** Too many to name. I guess the senior nights because we reminisced on memories while creating new ones at the same time.

**In college I am most looking forward to:** Being more independent and learning about things that inspire and deeply interest me.

**If I could have any superpower:** Telekinesis! You know Jean Grey from X-men? When I was a kid, I always wanted to be her. I think the red hair had some-

thing to do with it. My favorite princess is Ariel for the same reason.

**If I could meet one famous person:** I would want to meet Susan B. Anthony and talk about where feminism began and where it is now. I would especially like to get an opinion on what she thinks about the "second wave." I would also like to just hear her stories to what made her into who she is and what kept her going.

**Favorite word:** Why. Because you should never stop asking questions and learning.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I was a complete neat freak and somewhat OCD as a child. When I was a toddler, my mom gave my younger sister, Megan, and I our own pudding cup and left us in our high chairs to change the loads of laundry. All of the sudden she heard a scream and thought that one of us fell out of our chairs. When she ran to our rescue, she saw me crying because I got one speck of pudding on me. Megan, on the other hand, was happily covered in pudding.

## David Swygart

**Home:** Hoagland, Indiana

**Major:** Biology

**Favorite quote verse:** "Pools are perfect for holding water." — Dave

**Hobbies or interests:** Hockey, paintball

**Best high school experience:** Pizza Wednesdays

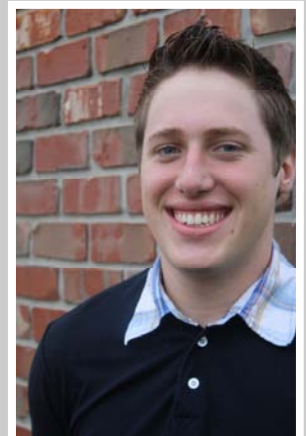
**In college I am most looking forward to:** The amazing food.

**If I could have any superpower:** Invisibility, the pranking possibilities would be endless.

**If you could meet one famous person:** Jackie Chan, so he could show me some of his mad skills.

**Favorite word:** Bowl

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** Milked goats.





# Mary C. Dodd Honors Students

We also extend a warm welcome to two of our new Mary C. Dodd Honors Students, who will be entering the JWHC as sophomores. Rachel attended IWU last year, and Kyle is a transfer student.

## Rachel Beckner

**Home:** Lyon, France

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite quote:** "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health,  
and quiet breathing." - John Keats

**Hobbies or interests:** Acting, reading, dancing, singing, movies, playing games



**Best high school experience:** Graduating!

**In college, I most look forward to:** Building deep, life-long friendships and learning from fantastic professors!

**If I could have any superpower:** Flying, because I like

wide open spaces and absolutely love the sky. Breathing underwater would be my second choice.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive:** C. S. Lewis, because I am a *Chronicles of Narnia* nut.

**Favorite word:** Loquacious. Such an elegant way of saying "wordy". And such lovely, flowing, liquid sounds (the "l" and the "kwa" and the "cious")

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I was terrified of a family friend: a nice, ordinary-looking, middle-aged father of 3 children. To this day I cannot remember why, but for some reason I would burst into tears as soon as I saw him.

## Kyle Sofolo

**Home:** I was born in Dixon, Illinois, but I lived the first part of my life in Oregon, Illinois. We then moved

out of Oregon and back to Dixon and have lived there ever since.

**Major:** Psychology or Biology/Pre-Med

**Favorite Bible verse:** Romans 8:28-32

**Hobbies or interests:** Reading, traveling, writing, cooking, playing soccer, spending time with friends, and playing video games. My interests include literature, music, film, politics, food, philosophy, psychology/psychiatry, medicine, anatomy and physiology, food, and sleeping.

**Best high school experience:** Although I had many positive experiences in high school, the best experience that I had, by far, was playing soccer for my school's team. I'm not being boastful when I say that we were rather dominant, as we won state in our conference several of the years I played.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Increased knowledge and outstanding learning opportunities offered at IWU. I am eager to partner with the faculty at the college in achieving my degree.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would choose the ability to read minds. I would very much like to know what people are thinking (good or bad) when they don't bother to express it.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive:** I would meet Sigmund Freud because I would want to discuss with him how he formulated such strange theories. I think it would be interesting to sit down and pick his brain at length.

**Favorite word:** Harbinger because the connotation, in my mind, is one of impending doom. I also think that it has an interesting phonetic ring to it.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I was quite strange as a child. For example, I found a cicada shell and hooked it on my shirt. I named it "Peterson." I then proceeded to wear it out in public along with punched-out safety glasses and a John Deere hat.



# Scholar Spotlight

Several JWHC students are serving on the 2011-12 cabinet for IWU's Student Government Association.



**Aaron Morrison** is rising senior from Crawfordsville, Indiana, and is majoring in pre-law/economics. He is the 2011-12 SGA President.

*Favorite aspect of the JWHC:* The mission. The JWHC seeks to probe the deepest questions that we have as the children of God. These are challenging questions that are sometimes controversial but need to be asked nonetheless. As these questions are considered, the JWHC encourages you to not just use your mind, but your heart and your soul as well. Virtue is married to the pursuit of knowledge, and I love it. Because of the JWHC, I know who I am in Christ better than I did before. I know my own mission as well, which is to face the challenges of life with joy.

*What he loves most about IWU:* The people. We keep the buildings pretty nice here, but I hope we never forget that IWU is great because of the kind of people that come here. The people here want to engage the world around them. They live their lives with purpose. They are not just taking up space. The friends and mentors that I have made here have shaped my life in Christ more in the past three years than in the previous ten years of my life before college.

*Advice for freshmen:*

- Keep your door open. This is such a simple thing, but I guarantee that it will allow you to make friends quickly. An open door makes you available to other people and vice versa. An open door, as well as an open heart, will make friends quickly and keep them.
- Set a consistent sleep schedule and stick to it. In my opinion, the biggest factor in making my freshman year a success was disciplining myself to go to sleep at a consistent time. Without sleep, you will be cranky around other people, which hurts your social life, and you will be unable to think clearly for your academic work, which will hurt your GPA in a hurry. Get good sleep in college. Your life depends on it.
- Do something different. "Take the road less traveled," as Robert Frost said. At college, you will get caught up in the popular activities that everyone else does — video games, movies on the weekends, card games, etc. I believe that it is a waste of the life that God has given us to do the same thing over and over again. Be willing to do something different that you've never done before on every weekend as a start. It can make all the difference.
- Get plugged into a church or quickly find a spiritual mentor who challenges you. You're an adult now. You likely won't be able to go to your old church back home anymore. The decision to increase your faith and grow in your relationship with God is squarely upon your shoulders. This is the time, now more than ever, to take ownership of what you truly believe. Believing by your parents' faith and by your own faith are two different things.



**Kiersten Beagan**, who is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a rising sophomore majoring in Christian ministries and minoring in leadership.

*Favorite aspect of the JWHC:* I love the depth of learning and insight that I get to experience in all of my honors courses. It is challenging, yet encouraging to me at the same time.

*What she loves most about IWU:* I love the people that make up the Body of Christ (and McConn!).

*Advice for freshmen:* In high school, we all search for security. So, we end up attaching ourselves to certain people and small groups. In college, make sure you expand your horizons and get out to meet new people! You never know who God is going to place along your path.

# Scholar Spotlight



**Courtney Bidwell** is a rising junior in English and writing from Napoleon, Ohio.

*Favorite aspect of the JWHC:* The class discussions! I've learned so much from my professors and classmates during these discussions. They challenge and encourage me to think critically about integrating my faith with my schoolwork and life outside the classroom.

*What she loves most about IWU:* The people! I've met some of the most amazing people during my first two years. They really are what makes IWU so special.

*Advice for freshmen:* Get involved. Finding an activity, club, or group that matches your interests is a great way to meet people, and it makes the transition to college that much easier. And if you can't find one, start something yourself!

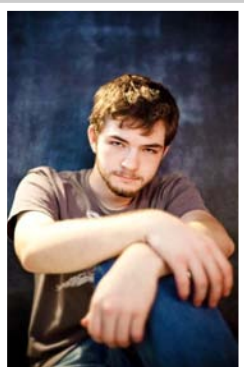


**Jenna Childress** is a rising junior from Cincinnati, Ohio, with a major in history and a minor in philosophy.

*Favorite aspect of the JWHC:* I love the community! As an Honors College student, I have had the opportunity to be involved in fun social events, service projects, and spiritual accountability with the same people that are in my classes, which has provided very dear and holistic friendships.

*What she loves most about IWU:* Two things: 1) The peaceful atmosphere and the size of campus. 2) The professors are accessible, knowledgeable, and willing to work with students.

*Advice for freshmen:* You will always have homework to do, but if you set aside time to become involved in the community and invest in friendships it will be a blessing that will follow you throughout your college experience.



**Luke Nelsen** is a rising senior from Springfield, Illinois, who is majoring in mathematics.

*Favorite aspect of the JWHC:* The people — the professors and staff and the students. Why? Because those people shine the brilliance, ingenuity, creativity, and redeeming power of Christ. The JWHC reminds me constantly of the re-formative power of the Holy Spirit.

*What he loves most about IWU:* The opportunities provided to develop in a variety of areas of one's life.

*Advice for freshmen:* Ray your way through; don't forget about the importance of people in the eyes of God; don't forget about the importance of YOU in the eyes of God.

## Up Next . . .

The August issue of the *Freshman Perspective* will include important campus information for you to know when you arrive. It's also your last chance to be included among the Featured Freshmen!