

The Freshman Perspective

The Freshman Orientation Newsletter for John Wesley Scholars

Volume 4, Issue 3



Free Pancakes & Fellowship with the JWHC

Mark your calendars, and join us for our annual Pancake Breakfast, hosted during New Student Orientation by the John Wesley Honors College and student leaders from the Honors College Student Association. Breakfast begins at 8:00 am on Monday, September 6, on the lawn of Epworth House (4410 S. Harmon Street), the gathering place for JWHC student events throughout the year (rain site: Goodman Hall). You'll also want to attend the JWHC Reception later in the day at 1:45 pm, located in the Burns Hall Rooftop Plaza. Free food and new friends: What more could

you ask for during orientation?! You will likely also have the opportunity to meet several of the faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and JWHC students who have been featured throughout the *Freshman Perspective*.

We're all getting excited about your arrival on campus and hope you are too! Until then, enjoy the summer!

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Undergraduate Research

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 JWHC curriculum from the freshman through the senior year. JWHC students work collaboratively with faculty researchers from a variety of academic areas in Honors Research Tutorials. Through Honors Scholarship Projects, JWHC juniors and seniors also 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).



A Sampling of Honors Scholarship Projects

Juniors and seniors in the JWHC select a topic of interest to them and pursue scholarly research and creative projects over the course of two semesters. 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”
- “A Rubric for Christological Worship: Evaluating the Legitimacy of Worship Lyrics for Christian Worship Services”
- “Pastel Pantsuits or Cheetah Pumps: The Emergence of Female Politicians”
- “An Investigation in the Locus of Control Concerning Hispanic Women in the Health Care Setting”
- “Darys: A Vampire’s Trial” (a novel)

Required Books for UNV 180 (Becoming World Changers)

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

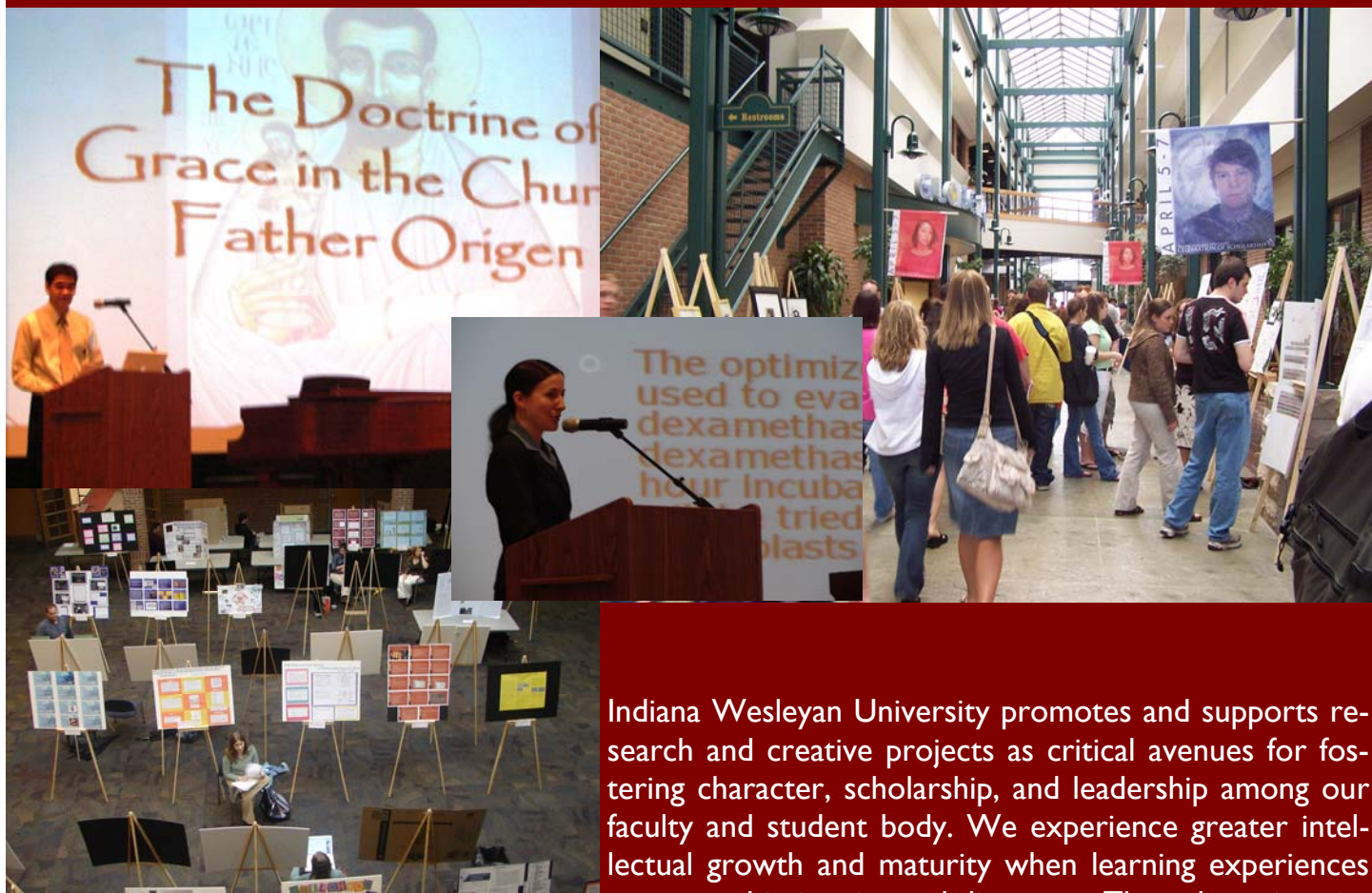
Miroslav Volf, *Allah: A Christian Response* (Not Yet Released). Don’t worry about buying this one yet! We’ll let you know how to obtain a copy after you arrive on campus.

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).

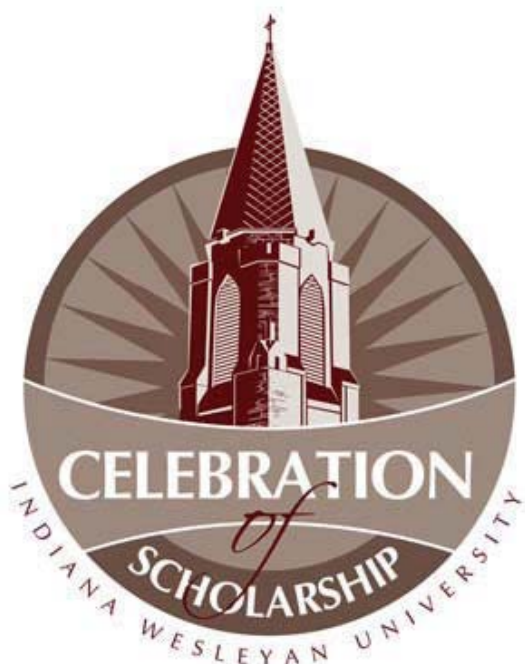
N. T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters* (New York, 2010).

Celebration of Scholarship



Indiana Wesleyan University promotes and supports research and creative projects as critical avenues for fostering character, scholarship, and leadership among our faculty and student body. We experience greater intellectual growth and maturity when learning experiences are rooted in inquiry and discovery. Thus, the university sets aside a week each spring for a **Celebration of Scholarship**, in which IWU showcases the achievements of its undergraduate scholars, increases awareness of the research and scholarship opportunities available, and challenges faculty and students to think more deeply about what it means to be a Christ-centered community of academic excellence.

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 speaks on a topic related to the Christian academic vocation.



Introducing the JWHC Postdoctoral Fellows



Dr. Rusty Hawkins
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, 2009-11

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.

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).



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

Professor 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, anticipated 2010). 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.

Professor 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 two-year-old daughter, Kate. Professor Peeler enjoys early mornings, running, reading history and biography, yard sales, fine films, and good Thai food.

**Professor Peeler expects to complete her doctoral work this fall. She will be teaching Honors New Testament during the fall semester.*

Other Faculty You'll Meet in JWHC Courses

Dr. Paul Allison

Course: Humanities World Literature (ENG 180)

Department: Modern Language and Literature



Dr. Chris Bounds

Course: Liberal Learning & Life Calling Tutorials (HNR 225)

Department: Religion and Philosophy



Dr. Steve Lennox

Courses: Old Testament (BIL 101)

Department: Religion and Philosophy



Dr. Steve Horst

Course: Humanities Philosophy (PHL 180)

Department: Religion and Philosophy

Dr. Willem Van De Merwe

Course: Impacts of Science on Faith and Society (SCI 380)

Department: Natural Sciences



Dr. Mark Smith
Summer Scholars Program

Department: Social Sciences



Getting to Know the JWHC Office Student Staff



Annastasia Bonczyk, Ambassador Team Leader

Majors: Biblical Literature **Year:** Senior **Hometown:** Fremont, MI

Favorite JWHC class to date: Hmm...so hard to chose. Probably, Research Seminar because I took it with a fantastic group of people. Before that, my favorite class was probably World Changers, and to prove it I took the class three times (once as a student and twice as a peer facilitator.)

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): My favorite place on campus is McConn because I love being around people, listening to good music, drinking coffee, and spending hours in a single location. My favorite place off-campus is Payne's (in Gas City) or a Panera Bread because you have a cool atmosphere, coffee, and free Internet.

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): I love to hang out and that can include watching movies, playing sand volleyball or my new favorite game of ultimate Frisbee, or reading a book for fun. I love to be around people and laugh a lot so anything that includes that is normally a favorite for me.

Advice for freshmen: Remember that college is about more than grades. The academic side is super important, but it is not the only important thing. The beauty of a college like IWU is that they challenge you to be more than you are inside and outside the classroom. Manage your time well so that you are able to participate and enjoy those activities that happen outside of the classroom, like good conversations over dinner or random hang out time at Epworth House. Those times have been so formative for me and have helped me to grow as a person and a Christian. One of my favorite things about the Honors College is that I have been challenged to approach every opportunity (in the classroom, in chapel, in the dining hall, etc.) as an opportunity for growth and exploration.



Amy Brooker, Ambassador

Major: Marketing **Year:** Senior **Hometown:** Sugar Grove, IL

Favorite JWHC class to date: New Testament

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): Epworth, Library (the room with the window), or on my bed

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Make pancakes. Play the oboe. Travel. Hang out at Epworth. Play Euchre. Watch movies.

Advice for freshmen: Enjoy your first year at college. It'll be great. But be sure to keep up with your reading.



Mike Conner, Ambassador

Major: Biblical Literature **Year:** Sophomore **Hometown:** Woodstown, NJ

Favorite JWHC class to date: Research Tutorial (the Civil Rights Movement in the North with Dr. Hawkins) and Old Testament with Dr. Lennox

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): My room

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Bass guitar, ping pong, Super Smash Bros.

Advice for freshmen: The Honors College will challenge you. Stick it out the first year, get to know the faculty, and prepare yourself for an emphasis on theology, and you will come to love it.

Getting to Know the JWHC Office Student Staff (cont.)



Jaki Brueggen, Ambassador

Major: Nursing, with an Intercultural Studies Minor **Year:** Sophomore

Hometown: Anderson, IN

Favorite class in the JWHC to date: Very close tie between UNV-180 with Dr. Riggs and World Civ. with Dr. Toland. Both were excellent classes.

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): I study all over the place depending on my mood and the situation, but my favorite all-time study spot is Teter Café at night. It is a good blend of quiet and busy for me, especially when the library seems SO quiet.

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Well, I study a lot, but I'm also involved in a ton of different things (which can be overwhelming, but which I love!) such as Honors Senate, different dorm activities, intramural sports (co-ed volleyball!), *Coram Deo*, ALTAR (a student-led worship service), and other different campus events. I also enjoy hanging out with friends in my dorm — talking, watching movies, playing games, getting McConn, doing random things to make memories, etc.

Advice for freshmen: College is an experience unlike anything (most likely) you've ever had before. Be open-minded: try new things and don't be afraid to get involved, ask upperclassmen for advice, do random things and make memories, and cry once in a while if you get stressed. (It really does help!) ♦ Your spiritual life is SO important! Don't let God get lost in the busyness. Make sure you are setting aside time for personal devotions, because if you are waiting for the time to show up, it never will. Also, chapel may seem like a waste of time to some people, but it is huge for getting reconnected with God even in the middle of the stress. Take notes — it will keep you awake and help you get more out of the teaching. ♦ Learn from your mistakes and make better choices in the future (such as getting more sleep the night before a big test or choosing to study rather than watch movies with your friends). ♦ Let things happen the way they happen. Don't compare your experience to anyone else's, because you will be disappointed when things are different than you might have expected. Enjoy life as it comes. ♦ Set aside specific break times during the week. For me this is Friday nights. Even if you know you have six tests and papers due in the next week, MAKE yourself take that time off. Getting the R&R you need will make you less stressed about everything else. On the flip side, be aware of how much you have to do, and do what you feel necessary to get it done, even if all of your friends are doing other stuff when you need to study. ♦ Finally, live in Bowman or Shatford!!! They are the best. :)



Kelsey Davitt, Ambassador

Major: Pre-Med/Biology **Year:** Sophomore **Hometown:** Rockford, IL

Favorite JWHC class to date: World Civ. with Dr. Hawkins

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): I like studying in my room because there are lots of distractions right outside the door that I can give in to if I need a break!

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Hang out with friends, whether that is watching a movie, hanging at McConn, or playing pool in the game room.

Advice for freshman: Take every opportunity you can to get to know people and get the most out of your first year. It goes way faster than you would ever expect!



Hilary Moore, Ambassador

Major: Psychology **Year:** Junior **Hometown:** Xenia, OH

Advice for freshman: Get to know people right away. Spend lots of time with your JWHC class and the other HC students because you'll be around them a lot and have immediate common ground. Don't be afraid to ask questions and connect with older students. We're all so excited to have you guys here and can't wait to get to know you and see the cool people that God made you to be.

Getting to Know the JWHC Office Student Staff (cont.)



Ben Peltier, Ambassador

Major: Communication Studies **Year:** Sophomore **Hometown:** Van Wert, OH

Favorite JWHC class to date: World Civ. with Dr. Hawkins

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): In a hammock, anywhere.

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): I enjoy being with friends no matter what we are doing.

Advice for freshmen: NEVER PROCRASTINATE!



Paige Vacha, Ambassador

Major: Nursing with a Christian Ministries Minor **Year:** Junior

Hometown: Wadsworth / Kent, OH

Favorite JWHC class to date: World Literature — Dr. Allison is an amazing professor

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): Epworth and Shattuck

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): It is really nice to have coffee dates with friends, and after studying for hours at a time, it is nice just to sit in front of a TV and watch a movie with Luke Nelsen (he is a hilarious).

Advice for freshmen: Get a strong group of friends who have the same values as you do to begin with. Also, learn time-management very quickly (it will make or break your freshman year).



Kay Alderfer, Admissions Team Leader

Major: Nursing **Year:** Senior

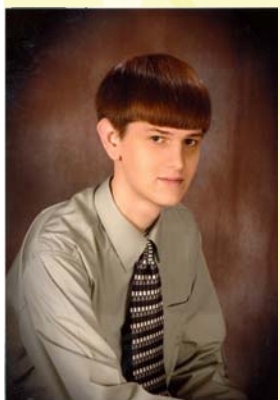
Hometown: Crawfordsville, IN

Favorite JWHC class to date: History of the 1960s with Dr. Ream

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): I'm kind of schizo when it comes to study places. I have to move every couple hours. So, it can be McConn with earbuds for a spell, then the library (which is probably the place I study best), then the lobby of my dorm, then a friend's room... just changing scenes as often as possible.

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): I like to read some, crochet, take walks, blog, and watch movies with good friends!

Advice for freshmen: Don't go home very often. The people who are "stuck" on campus during the weekends are apt to be inventive with their activities and to make closer friendships. I just got a car during my junior year, and I'm really glad that I didn't have it before then. Going home once every two months or so is okay, but try to go as long as you can without it.



Jeff Dunn, Admissions Assistant & Finances Assistant

Major: Political Science and Business Administration **Year:** Junior **Hometown:** Indianapolis, IN

Favorite JWHC class to date: Honors World Literature was a personal favorite because of the discussion of literature at great depth. Dr. Allison remains one of my favorite professors, and everyone really enjoyed the class. Another at the top of the list is Dr. Ream's Research Tutorial on Justice, which was great because I enjoyed the philosophical musings paired with practical application. This class held high academic rigor while keeping a down-to-earth balance, which is something I greatly appreciate in Dr. Ream's tutorials.

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): The 24-Hour study lounge at Shadduck!

Getting to Know the JWHC Student Staff (cont.)

Continued from Jeff Dunn

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Competitive sports and activities — Racquetball is my absolute favorite, especially with Luke Nelsen. I've also been known to enjoy ping-pong and board games, and am planning on picking up tennis this summer.

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 ton of 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, enjoy the freedom, and keep up with the World Changers reading and freshmen academics.



Natalie Wierenga, Admissions Assistant

Major: Secondary Education and English **Year:** Sophomore **Hometown:** Winfield, IL

Favorite JWHC class to date: World Literature

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): The lawn in front of Evans hall

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Going on campus walks with a friend

Advice for freshmen: Keep yourself organized and prioritized (God first, then others, then yourself, THEN homework). You guys are an amazing group, and I cannot wait to get to know all of you!



Annie Brooker, Academic Program Assistant & Ambassador

Major: Biology **Year:** Junior **Hometown:** Aurora, IL

Favorite JWHC class to date: World Civ. with Dr. Toland

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): Goodman lawn

Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Hang out with friends.

Advice for freshmen: The most important thing to learn in college (that I'm still learning) is time management.



Beth Freije, Academic Program Assistant

Major: Elementary Education **Year:** Junior

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN / Bomet, Kenya

Favorite JWHC class to date: Old Testament with Dr. Lennox! I fell in love with the Old Testament through this class.

Favorite spot to study (on- or off-campus): My room if I want to be really productive or McConn if I only want to be somewhat productive :)

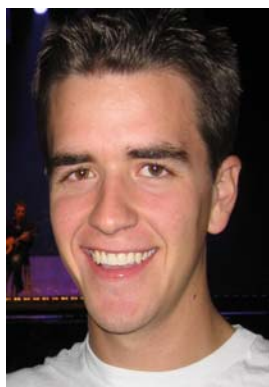
Favorite thing to do (when you're not studying!): Staying active — running, tennis, and Turbo Kick.

Advice for freshmen: Sleep... it's important.

Scholar Spotlight

The Honors College has cultivated many Student Government Association (SGA) leaders over the years. For the past six years, all our student body presidents have been JWHC students. Cory Sprunger, the current SGA president, and Natalie Davis, Jonathan Freije, and Luke Nelsen, three of several JWHC students serving as cabinet members, are featured in this issue's Scholar Spotlight.

Cory Sprunger



Age: 21 **Hometown:** Berne, IN
Major: Pre-Law/Political Science

Life verse: 1. Love God, Love your Neighbor... 2. Rev. 4 (everyone praising God with a lot of detail)

Favorite aspect of the JWHC and why: Being around a lot of other motivated people who all have good hearts. This is such a rare group of quality people that are assembled each year and is a ginormous blessing.

What I love most about IWU: It is exposed to an enormous amount of temptation to become more secularized as we grow, and yet have remained completely Christ-centered.

What I do in my free time: Politics, I have some fish ponds at home, a lot of really random things.

Advice for freshman: Make sure you have fun...and make friends. Most people in the school have too much fun and need to work more, but people in the Honors College tend to fall more on the other side of the spectrum and need to remember to have fun!

A word about getting involved in SGA: If you are interested in getting involved in the university from a behind-the-scenes perspective and want to add to the amazing works God is doing here, think about getting involved in SGA. There are many ways to get involved, but the most primary way is by serving as a senator for your residence hall (two senators are elected every year on the second week of school and freshman get elected all the time), be appointed as an academic representative by your division chair, or be a representative for a university student organization. SGA can be an enlightening window of opportunity for you if you choose to continue the tradition of Honors College involvement in IWU's Student Government Association.

Natalie Davis



Age: 21
Hometown: Crawfordsville, Indiana — a proud Hoosier born and raised

Major: Leadership Studies and Psychology

Life verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Favorite aspect of the JWHC and why: The JWHC has been one of the best aspects of my college experience. That's proba-

bly my favorite aspect — our community. We have the opportunity to learn about ourselves and our God and grow alongside each other. It's a group of brothers and sisters in Christ who will challenge and push you in ways you never expected — but the end result is beautiful. The community you are about to enter into is unlike anything I have ever been a part of, and I pray it will be that community for you.

What I love most about IWU: What I most love about

IWU is probably just having the complete freedom to express my Christian faith in a safe environment. Most everyone else surrounding you on this campus wants to grow and learn in Christ just as much as you do. It provides an environment that challenges you to keep furthering your relationship with Christ and to learn more about yourself and our Creator. IWU is a wonderful support system for growth.

What I do in my free time: I LOVE playing tennis, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball...sports in general, I guess. I also like reading, playing piano, watching movies, and listening to country music.

Advice for freshman: I got this advice from a friend of mine a couple years ago, and it has stuck in my mind ever since: *don't take yourselves too seriously*. There will be times in your college experience where you'll be getting pressures from all sides, and it might seem like everything is falling apart, but keep in mind the bigger picture of everything. In comparison to the fact that we have a Savior who died for our sins and loves us unconditionally, those stressors aren't that big of a deal. There are more important things in life than that one assignment or that one test. Just work to glorify God in everything you do and pursue him with all your heart, and ya'll will do just fine!

Scholar Spotlight (cont.)

Jonathan Freije



Age: 22

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana and Bomet, Kenya

Major: Business Administration and Economics

Life verse: I don't have a life verse, but my prayer for this summer is Psalm 25:4-5.

Favorite aspect of the JWHC and why: People: The professors, students, and JWHC program coordinator all make the

JWHC what it is. In these three years, I have grown intellectually and spiritually from both the lectures of the professors and the informal discussions with my peers. The great thing is

that we also know how to relax and have fun together.

What I love most about IWU: Not to be repetitive, but did I mention that I love the people at IWU? I have never been around such a body of people who take their faith seriously like the students, faculty, and staff at IWU. At IWU, you can build meaningful relationships with students, the cleaning staff, professors, and even the president of the university.

What I do in my free time: I love being active, whether that means running, soccer, climbing, or hiking.

Advice for freshman: Use your time well. Being a senior, I am realizing how terribly fast time goes by. I looked up an old quote from Benjamin Franklin that stated, "Do not waste time for that is the stuff that life is made of." In your time at IWU, there will be a million seemingly important jobs, activities, and events all begging for your attention. Choose wisely and make sure that you spend the time that you have been given for the glory of God, for that is the only thing that will matter in eternity.

Luke Nelsen



Age: 19.9 (not counting fetal months)

Hometown: Springfield, IL

Major: Mathematics

(current) Life verse: Proverbs 18:13

Favorite aspect of the JWHC and

why: The mission. To integrate a learning faith into our personhood is precisely what I, as an aspiring academician, need. To do our vocation excellently in an effort to tangibly tie God's Kingdom to earth, to be driven

and united by a true and Christ-centered Love, and to be defined and therefore define our actions by that Christian virtue — that is the critical essence of the JWHC.

What you love most about IWU: I love IWU for similar reasons. However, the overall description about what I most appreciate here is that it is Light. There exists a spiritual quality about this campus that helps dispel heaviness of heart, directs us heavenward, and grants enormous potential for spiritual growth and maturation. Our community is a light to the city of Marion, universities around the nation, and the globe. Although we are not the only light in the world, it is that trait of this campus that has drawn and kept so many students here. We have the Spirit, generations before us, administration, faculty, and fellow students to thank for it.

What you do in your free time: I would love to convince myself that I read (and I try to!), but my spare time always manages to be invested in being with people or catching up with myself. Catch me sometime to talk in Teter Café, play racquetball or cards, or to go over some math homework.

Advice for freshmen: Breathe. Seriously — there is some sweet air to be inhaled! You are making a big transition here, and it will simply be an overload unless you force yourself every now and then to stop, breathe, and smile knowing that God holds you, his precious sheep, in the palm of his mighty hand. There's nothing that you and he together can't handle! But aye, there's the rub: you can't do it on your own! Rely on him to keep you well; rely on others to keep you reasonable! Trust me, other people are crucial here. ♦ Get over your self. You are not the center of the universe; God is, always has been, and must always be. By centering your life, goals, and perspective on him, you'll actually succeed in living stably! Whatever goals you have now, look at them in light of pursuing Christ, not vice versa. If you don't believe me, read Joshua 1:8 or Proverbs 3:1-2 or John 15:7. That's not the prosperity gospel — that's renovation of the heart! ♦ Make time to read and memorize God's Word and to pray. Ask me if you need ideas. I would suggest doing it with others. ♦ Go out of your way to be friendly and don't be intimidated by the campus or its residents. In other words, make yourself at home. ♦ Read what your teachers assign. Take the professors seriously; respect them and thank them. ♦ Read and apply Proverbs. ♦ Smile and hug. ♦ Appreciate Baldwin with Christ-like gratitude.

Study Abroad



Natalie Davis, a JWHC student you met on page 10, travelled to Australia for study abroad in the spring. We asked her to share a little of her experience with you.

From the first “G’day Mate!” I knew that I was no longer in the comforts of my native Hoosier land. This past February to June, I had the opportunity to stay in Sydney, Australia, and visit such places as the national capital of Canberra, chase kangaroos in the Outback, and swim with the fish in the Great Barrier Reef. I lived with an Australian family for the duration of my stay and took classes at a Christian arts school, Wesley Institute, about twenty minutes outside of the heart of the city. When I think back to those months, it still seems like a dream. I witnessed the beauty, embraced the culture, and changed so much more than I ever expected. Australia most certainly changed me for the better.

The most frequent question I get asked about my study abroad experience is, “What was your favorite part about Australia?” or, “What was the most life changing experience?” And anyone who has been abroad can tell you the impossibility of answering such a question. Answering a question like that is like choosing your favorite book or movie from the hundreds and thousands that are out there — it’s hard and takes some time to think about and usually you can’t pick just one. But if I’m being honest about my favorite parts of the semester, it wouldn’t be what you would expect. My favorite parts would be the little things I saw and did each day. It was taking the bus over the Gladesville Bridge each morning and seeing the sunrise dance over the harbor and across the Opera House, almost in tears every time because the sight was so incredibly beautiful. It was eating dinner at the table with my host-family and roommates every single night. It was playing cricket or soccer during the breaks of my Old Testament class each week. It was taking the ferry and going to Bondi Beach to journal. It was eating at Doy Tao, our favourite Thai restaurant, on Fridays after class. It was hanging out and eating dinner with my homeless friends at my service placement each week. It was looking up at the night sky and seeing the Southern Cross constellation. Australia for me was about the regular occurrences: the people I got to see and the places I was in every day.

In short, Australia changed my life, and it just can’t be expressed in a few paragraphs. It was more than a tourist experience or vacation; it was pilgrimage. Anyone who is ever thinking about studying abroad — do it. The people I have met are lifelong friends, the places I have been are forever part of my heart, and the experiences will stay with me forever. God used Australia to make me more into the woman he created me to be. There were times of difficulty and joy, but each moment, each experience, was worth it all.



Featured Freshmen

jonathan coates



Home: My family currently lives in Decatur, IL, but I spent all my junior high and high school years in Indianapolis, IN.

Major: Pre-Declared

Favorite verse: I Corinthians 15:58

Hobbies and interests:

Classical guitar, watching and playing baseball, exercising, camping, reading, and getting to know new people

Best high school experience:

My best high school experiences were going on a missions trip with my family to Asia, Free Methodist Bible quizzing, and having the opportunity to preach four different times at my local church.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Expanding my academic abilities, making new friends, growing closer to God, and finding more of my own identity.

If I could have any superpower, it would be:

After moving over a period of six months, super-strength sounds really good. (No more sore muscles or being crushed by heavy objects!)

Beverage I would be and why:

Fresh mango juice: because it's the best drink on the planet .

Strange thing I did as a child:

I was a walking bird dictionary. I often read bird field guides from cover to cover.

Most nerdy thing I've ever done:

Well, besides being a bird nerd as a kid, I think memorizing over two hundred questions and answers to an electronic trivia book for no apparent reason is the nerdiest thing I've ever done.

anna chleboun



Home: Athens, OH

Major: Religion/Philosophy and Art

Favorite verse: II Timothy 1:7

Hobbies or interests:

I love reading, playing soccer, baking/cooking, dancing, drawing, playing outside, lounging in the sun/water, running barefoot in the snow.

Best high school experience:

My soccer seasons and the last two weeks before graduation

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Meeting lots of new people and experiencing new things. Being in a new town and new environment and getting involved. So I'm looking forward to the new stuff! And of course I am excited for large amounts of intellectual stimulation!

Beverage I would be and why:

Probably an Arnold Palmer, but I would make it myself, with my mom's pomegranate green iced tea and the organic lemonade that comes in those cool glass jars. And why? Because I would feel good about myself because I would know I was delicious AND original, and diverse too, I suppose, because I would be a combination of two very good drinks.

Favorite word and why:

Lethargic... because it is fun to say (especially when you elongate the "arrrrr" to make it "leth-aaaaaarrrrrrrrrgic"), it is not overused, and for some reason I get a funny picture in my head any time it is spoken.

Strange thing I did as a child:

Well, in general, a weird thing was that I had a photographic smell memory. I would constantly identify clothes of people by the smell, or draw similarities between situations or places based on their smells.

elizabeth diesing



Home: Essex, VT

Major: Nursing, with a Spanish Minor

Favorite verse: Colossians 1:21-22

Hobbies and interests:

I am a lifeguard and swim instructor. I love the sun and the smell of chlorine and sunscreen. It reminds me of relaxing summer days! I take ballet. I love old-fashioned movies, like *Singin' in the Rain* and *My Fair Lady*. I also enjoy some sci-fi.

Best high school experience:

The best times I've had during high school were when I was hanging out with my good friends and family.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Living in a community of friends that want to know Jesus.

If I could have any superpower, it would be:

I would like to fly like Peter Pan!

Beverage I would be and why:

Sprite – It's sparkly (who wouldn't want to be sparkly?) and clear (no pretences) and sweet!

Favorite word and why:

Willow. It brings to mind something like an impressionist painting of a field surrounding a willow tree, with long branches gently sweeping the ground.

Strange thing I did as a child:

When my younger sister was little, she was terrified of Donald Duck. So whenever we walked through Disney World, I would pretend I was a detective on the search for him, and then I would steer us clear away.

Most nerdy thing I've ever done:

I bought a book of 500 Spanish verbs with all their conjugations – which I am quite excited about.

katie gustafson



Home: Monticello, IL

Majors: Psychology

Favorite verse: Galatians 2:20-21

Hobbies and interests:

I love drawing, painting, reading, listening to music, taking walks, playing board games and spending time with my friends. I got a guitar a couple weeks ago so I hope to start learning how to play this summer.

Best high school experience:

I went to summer camp my freshman year, and it completely changed my relationship with God so that is definitely one of my favorite memories. Other than that, just spending time with my wonderful friends.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Taking classes that I'm truly interested in, making new friends and, most importantly, growing in my relationship with God.

Beverage I would be and why:

Ski soda. My friends and I are obsessed with Ski and make special "Ski runs" to get the soda from a grocery store thirty minutes away from where we live.

Favorite word and why:

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis: My fourth grade class was required to spell the word for a spelling test. It's the longest word in the English language and an all-around cool word despite being a lung disease you get from inhaling volcanic dust.

Strange thing I did as a child:

I used to inventory my huge Beanie Baby collection every other week. I had so many that our house had a dedicated "Beanie Baby room" with display shelves and everything.

elizabeth potter



Home: Danville, PA

Major: Theatre & Writing

Favorite quote & verse:

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." - Steve Prefontaine & I Timothy 4:12

Hobbies and interests:

Adventures (especially outdoors), travel, different cultures, cooking/entertaining, teaching, learning new things, creating, the arts: writing/singing/playing piano/theatre, working out-running/biking/lifting/dancing, volunteering at church, mission trips, finding a quiet moment, and, most importantly, spending time with family/friends, usually through the above

Best high school experience:

My four years of Concert Choir: the concerts, the choral festivals, and most of all the musicals. It had the camaraderie of a family, a family that would randomly break out into harmonic textures and theatrical personas.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

At the heart, pursuing God and his perspective on living the "good life," but I am also excited for the opportunity to meet lots of new people and learn, learn, learn!

If I could have any superpower, it would be:

The ability to sleep little to none and still feel like I got ten hours and a power nap

Favorite word and why:

Renaissance: It reminds me to throw off complacency and that I am "new" in Christ.

Strange thing I did as a child:

I started my own business at age 6, and then went corporate at age 9, hiring my family to work for the business, then called Quality Cleaning and Care. I cleaned houses, did landscaping/mowing, and pet sat.

Starting to Think about Packing? Some Items to Bring to Campus

First, the basics:

- Clothes (don't forget hangers, a hamper, a drying rack, laundry soap, and dryer sheets)
- Bedding
- Towels
- Toiletries
- Computer and accessories
- Phone and accessories
- Bible, school supplies, and books
- Trash can and trash bags
- Any additional furniture you plan to put in your room (think small)
- Miscellaneous electronics (TV, lamps, fan, refrigerator, hairdryer)
- Dishes, cups, and silverware

Additional suggestions from current students:

- 3M hooks to hang posters or pictures on the walls
- Quarters... lots and lots of quarters
- Extra storage (e.g., plastic drawers, small baskets, and over-the-door hooks)
- Cleaning supplies (dish soap, dish towels, cleaning wipes, paper towels)
- Power strip
- USB jump drive
- Extra printer ink cartridges
- Basic medicine (aspirin, Band-Aid type bandages, Roloids/Pepto Bismol, cough drops, antibiotic ointment)
- "Egg carton" type mattress pad
- Small sewing kit
- Tools (hammer, screwdriver, tape measure, duct tape, etc.)
- Camera

Items Provided by IWU for Each Residence Hall Room:

2 beds, 2 desks with chairs,
1 dresser, telephone, blinds

That's it! Anything else you'll want needs to be brought from home.