

THE FRESHMAN PERSPECTIVE

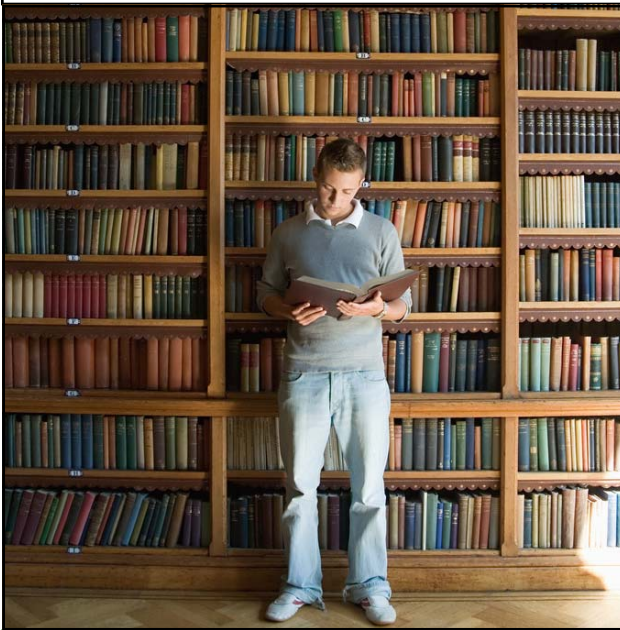
The Freshman Orientation Newsletter for John Wesley Scholars

Volume 3, Issue 1

The Honors Curriculum

Or, What Exactly Have I Gotten Myself Into?

Forum? Tutorials? Liberal Learning Portfolio? While the prospect of actually understanding these classes, not to mention passing them, may seem a little daunting now, all will become clear (hopefully by the end of this article). Dr. Riggs and other faculty members have spent a great deal of time and energy modifying and refining the curriculum for the JWHC since it was created a decade ago. Each of the courses you will take has been carefully selected because of its unique contribution to your liberal arts education. Individually, each of the classes is meaningful, but placed in the context of the broader education you will receive at IWU and in the Honors College, they each play an integral role. In this piece, we will go step by step through the initial requirements for the JWHC and give explanations.



HONORS HUMANITIES CORE (12 hrs)

- UNV 180 HC Becoming World Changers 3
- HST 180 HC Humanities World Civilization 3
- PHL 180 HC Humanities Philosophy 3
- ENG 180 HC Humanities World Literature 3

First up is the Honors Humanities Core, which is a total of 12 hours, made up of four classes. These are sometimes referred to as the "180s" because of their course numbers. These are classes that every student at IWU takes, usually during his or her first two years. Each 180 is taken as an Honors course, meaning the section must be "HC" and it is capped at 15 students.

Professor Riggs teaches UNV 180 each fall. This class is always taken during a student's first semester on campus, whether a member of the Honors College or not. UNV180 is meant to serve as an introduction to your collegiate education and will cover a wide range of topics, from basic tenets of Christianity to current issues. The other Humanities courses, World Civ, Philosophy, and World Lit, give students a foundation in the important events, themes, and pieces of literature that have shaped the world in which we live today. Each class has unique projects and assignments that let you interact with the material in a variety of ways. For example, in ENG 180 the students work together in groups during the semester to write and perform a play. We offer these courses every semester, to ensure each JWS has the opportunity to take them.

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HONORS RESEARCH TUTORIALS (6 hrs)

The Honors Research Tutorials (HRT) are classes that provide students with an opportunity to do hands-on research. This course serves as a useful and creative introduction to the world of academic research. The class consists of a professor integrating students into his or her research pursuits. The students are given semester-long projects that they complete in groups.

Students must complete two Honors Research Tutorials during their time in the Honors College. We encourage students to begin taking these courses during the second semester of their freshman year. By taking these classes early, students are given a chance to see first-hand how research is both initiated and completed. This experience will be useful during the Honors Scholarship Project, which comes into play during the junior or senior year.

Last semester, Dr. Ream taught a course about the social history of the 1960s. Students in this class made trips to other universities in the area to gather information. They conducted interviews with personnel and explored archived documents to research the institutions and important events that took place during the 1960s. One of the groups' paper from the class was submitted to the Indiana Historical Magazine for the possibility of publication. While the entire process was somewhat intimidating at first, the students learned a lot from their time in the course and felt as though they had completed a substantial project.

Other Tutorials have been offered on topics such as the concept of grace in the early church, perceptions of singleness in the 18th century, and theories of justice, using the Miami Indians as a case study.

HONORS ELECTIVES (6 hrs): Students will complete 6 hours of honors electives (either honors sections of general education electives or HNR electives).

In order to fulfill the requirements for the Honors Electives, students typically take some of their general education courses as Honors sections. For example, students might enroll in the honors sections of Old and New Testament (courses all students at IWU will take). We have incredible profs teaching these courses and students love them. Because the Honors sections delve deep into the riches of biblical interpretation, they can be pretty challenging, but extremely rewarding.

A class taught by Dr. Riggs that many students have enjoyed is The

History of the Muslim-Christian Encounter (which counts as a general education Social Science elective). During this class, the students read texts that relate how Christians and Muslims have interacted throughout history, from the seventh century to the present. Because most students do not know much about Islam, they are often surprised by all they discover during the semester. In the past, we have even been able to set up a teleconference with Muslim students in the Palestinian territories to talk about the topics addressed in the course.

HONORS COLLEGE FORUM (6 Semesters)

Honors College Forum is a series of events students choose to attend such as cultural experiences, plays, or musicals. Sometimes these events are held off-campus and the Honors College pays for all costs associated with these events. Forum has been a very popular part of the JWHC for students and is a great way to meet other JWS.

Through Forum, students are exposed to a broad range of fine arts experiences in order to help them understand the important roles that aesthetic spheres of expression play in a Christian liberal education. In particular, students are

challenged to think about the unique ways that art, music, theatre, and the literary arts can illuminate the meaning and significance of human life, intellect, and the Christian faith. The intent of such learning experiences is to help students to broaden their powers of critical thinking, creativity, and discernment.

Through this participation in fine arts events, readings, group discussions, and reflective writing, students are equipped to appreciate aesthetic pursuits as integral to lifelong learning and the cultivation of a Christian life well-lived.

LIBERAL LEARNING & LIFE CALLING TUTORIALS/PORTFOLIO (6 hrs)

- Five Semesters of LLLC Tutorials (5 hrs)
- LLLC Capstone Course (1 hr)

Liberal Learning Tutorials provide opportunities for John Wesley Scholars to grow as Christian liberal learners. Through various readings, discussions, written work, and personal assessments, students are challenged to deepen their understanding of the nature and purpose of a Christian liberal education, equipped to draw their general education and academic majors into a formative dialogue with their Christian faith, and taught to integrate a life of learning, spirituality, and service

into the context of a holistic Kingdom-of-God vocation. Students incorporate the coursework from these tutorials into a Liberal Learning & Life Calling Portfolio that consolidates and documents their growth in the Honors College learning outcomes. This Portfolio culminates in a LLLC capstone course in which Seniors synthesize the fruits of their liberal education and cast a personal vision for the lifelong pursuit of intellectual and spiritual growth.

The catalog of courses offered at IWU is available on the Wildcat Page (wildcat.indwes.edu). Under “Academics,” click “Course Schedule.” You can find out what classes are offered each semester by searching for a specific division, a certain time, or even your favorite professor.

Dr. David Riggs

Director of the JWHC



Dr. Riggs joined the IWU community in 2000. In addition to his duties as Director of the John Wesley Honors College, Dr. Riggs teaches courses in history, religion and undergraduate research. His primary area of scholarly interest is the ancient Mediterranean world. Dr. Riggs also has a developing interest in the history of the Muslim-Christian encounter.

Dr. Riggs has written various articles and book reviews and presented several papers on ancient Christianity, Greco-Roman religions, and the socio-political institutions of the Roman Empire. He is currently revising his doctoral thesis on the religious world of late antique North Africa for publication with Oxford University Press (*Divine Patronage in Late Roman and Vandal Africa*:

Reconsidering a Local Narrative of Christianisation).

Dr. Riggs has been married to his high-school/college sweetheart, Laura, for 19 years. Laura is a CPA who currently indulges her accounting interests part-time alongside the more challenging task of raising their four ultra-active children: Patrick (12), Christian (9), Alexandria (7), and Faith (4).

Dr. Todd Ream

Associate Director of the JWHC

Todd C. Ream (B.A., Baylor University; M.Div., Duke University Divinity School; Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University) is the Associate Director of the John Wesley Honors College. Todd and his wife, Sara, have two daughters, Addison and Ashley, and live in Greentown, Indiana. Sara is the Co-Coordinator of Marion, Indiana's Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS). In the fall, Addison will be in First Grade at Eastern Elementary School and Ashley will be in preschool at Jerome Christian Church Preschool. The Reams are members of Jerome Christian Church.

Prior to coming to Indiana Wesleyan, Todd served as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, a Dean of Students, and a Residence Director. In addition to his administrative and teaching duties, his research interests include the historical,

philosophical, and theological explorations of higher education. He is the author (w/ Perry L. Glanzer, Baylor University) of *Christian Faith and Scholarship: An Exploration of Contemporary Developments* (Jossey-Bass, 2007) and *Christianity and Moral Identity in Higher Education* (Palgrave Macmillan, Forthcoming--December 2009). His current book project, with Tim Herrmann and Skip Trudeau, is entitled *A Parent's Guide to the Christian College* (Abilene Christian University Press).

He has contributed over 100 articles, reviews, and review essays to a variety of academic journals and popular periodicals such as *Big Sky Journal*, *Books and Culture*, *Christian Scholar's Review*, *Christianity Today*, *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, and *New*



Blackfriars. He also serves as the Book Review Editor for *Christian Higher Education* and for *Growth: The Journal of the Association for Christians in Student Development*.

Our Motto, Mission, and Vision

Motto

Ad Studium Prudentiae et Sapientiae et Sanctitatis

“For the Passionate Pursuit of Understanding, Wisdom, and Virtue/Holiness”

Mission

The John Wesley Honors College is an intensive liberal learning community established to model, reinforce, and enrich the university's Christ-centered pursuit of excellence in scholarship, character formation, and servant leadership.

Vision

The JWHC vision is to foster a community of faculty, student, and alumni servant-leaders who are engaged in the faithful pursuit of understanding, wisdom, and virtue. Hence we strive to be a community of men and women who can compete intellectually with the best and brightest of our peers globally. But more importantly, we aspire to be kingdom-of-God people who are adept at integrating faith, learning, service, and life calling into a Christian life well-lived. In this way, the JWHC aims to be a nationally-recognized leader in collegiate honors education that serves and enriches Church and society, as it bolsters Indiana Wesleyan's efforts to be a premier Christian university.

JWHC Learning Outcomes

JWHC graduates are well-equipped liberal learners poised to integrate a reflective faith, intellect, and servanthood into the pursuit of a Christian life well-lived. This means each graduate should possess:

A. *Knowledge and Understanding*

1. A deep grounding in the theological narrative of historic Christianity.
2. A substantive grasp of the historical developments and cultural dynamics that have shaped the present age.
3. A conversancy with the great historic conversations that have grappled with the fundamental questions of life.
4. A comprehension of both the interpretive power and methodological limitations of their academic disciplines for the pursuit of knowledge and truth.
5. A broad familiarity with the roles that aesthetic spheres of expression (e.g., art, music, and literature) can play in illuminating the meaning and significance of human life.

B. *Skills*

1. A facility for processing information and engaging complex problems analytically, creatively, and contextually.
2. The capacity to be a critical and reflective reader.
3. The ability to express ideas effectively through well-expressed writing and articulate verbal communication.
4. A developing proficiency in the methods and practices of an academic discipline.
5. The capacity to incorporate diverse domains of knowledge and learning into a holistic engagement of everyday life.
6. An aptitude for drawing learning, inquiry, and daily practices into an intimate relationship with the Christian theological narrative.

C. *Dispositions and Virtues*

1. An appreciation for, conversancy with, and development in the virtues characteristic of critical thinking and thoughtful service within the Kingdom of God: e.g., charity, gratitude, joy, hope, prudence, justice, generosity, empathy, patience, forgiveness, humility, courage, integrity, inquisitiveness, diligence
2. A dedication to a life of servant leadership.
3. A commitment to lifelong learning and spiritual growth.

Scholar Spotlight

Anna Noveroske

Age: 19

Year: Sophomore

Hometown: Granger, Indiana

Major: Biology

Life Verse: In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5:16



What is your favorite aspect of the Honors College so far? Why?

The community in the honors college is definitely one of my favorite parts of HC. It helped me get to know a group of friends from the onset of my first semester on campus and it has made for some really great times.

What do you love about IWU?

I love that IWU is a Christ focused university and that is big enough to allow it to feel like a real university, but that it isn't so big that I feel lost in the shuffle of everything.

What do you do in your free time?

Epworth parties, volleyball, and movie nights.

Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen?

Be intentional about developing friendships. Studies are important, but the relationships you develop along the way are worth immeasurably more.

Josh Weaver



Age: 20

Year: Sophomore

Hometown: Wooster, Ohio

Major: Business Administration **Minor:** Computer Information Systems, Theology

Life verses: 1) Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in the hope of the glory of God."
2) Galatians 4:4-7 "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

Scholar Spotlight

What is your favorite aspect of the Honors College so far? Why?

I really enjoy the smaller class setting and the discussions that we have. It's so much more stimulating than many of my regular classes, and almost everybody participates in discussions. In many of my business classes I'm the only one who ever speaks up. This willingness to share leads to much more fruitful use of our class time. I also like the closeness of the group and the genuine love for Christ that many of us share.

What do you love about IWU?

I love the potential that IWU has. With so many people in one place who know about Christ, we have a large potential to make the jump from just knowing about God to really knowing God as a community. When that happens I believe that we will see a revival that is inspired by the power of the Holy Spirit. As more and more people realize that walking with Christ transcends attending chapel three days a week and church on Sunday, there will be an awakening of life and hope. I've seen this beginning to happen. Being a believer means walking in The Way day in and day out, being taught by the Father and hearing His voice. It's all about relationship. I love what Jim Lo is doing by bringing back this emphasis on prayer and communication with God back to IWU. We can be the most socially responsible group on the planet, but if we don't have love, we don't have anything.

In what are you involved on campus?

I am involved in the Honors College events, a community outreach group called Neighbors, a prayer/worship gathering called Revolution, and a student led business called University Storage.

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy playing guitar, singing, reading, playing sand volleyball, spending time with my family (four younger siblings), and cooking. I also sporadically study Portuguese due to my inordinate love for Brazil.

Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen?

Press into God and have tons of fun! Your school work will get done, so don't forget to spend time with friends and develop those relationships. If you're having a hard time transitioning, talk to upperclassmen or a professor about it. It took me a really long time to transition, and friends really helped me through that process.

Featured Freshmen

jaki brueggen



Home: Anderson, IN

Major: Nursing

Favorite verse:

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."
-Isaiah 30:21

Hobbies and interests:

I do 4-H, so I love sewing. I also love singing, doing sign language/interpretive dance pieces, playing the french horn, and dressing up. I love shopping, zebras, babysitting, the color teal, talking, and volleyball.

Best high school experience:

I am a very outgoing person, so I loved my four years at Prom, my Spanish 3 study group, playing volleyball, and getting to know many of the younger children at our homeschool co-op.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Getting out of high school! No, I'm really looking forward to having different opportunities on campus, making new friends, and learning how to be a nurse.

My favorite word:

My favorite word is also my favorite muscle of the human body: sternocleidomastoid. I like it because it's really long and it sounds cool, and because it is a very important muscle.

alyssa mastin



Home: Celina, OH

Major: Pre-med/
Biology

Favorite verse:

Hebrews 13:5 ("Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'") because it is a constant reminder that God is always there whether I am facing good times or bad.

Hobbies and interests:

I love spending time with my friends and family. I also like reading, shopping, watching movies, watching and playing sports, and mowing the grass.

Best high school experience:

During my junior year, our basketball team won the league championship for the first time in almost fifteen years.

I am looking forward to college because...

It will give me a chance to be more independent and be more on my own.

If I could have any superpower...

I would want to fly because then I could pretty much go anywhere I wanted. Plus I would save a ton of money on gas and airfare.

noel liakos


Home:

Verbank, New York

Major:

Music Education

Favorite quote:

'You know what music is? God's little reminder that there is

something else besides us in the universe, a harmonic connection between all living beings, every where, even the stars.'
-August Rush

Favorite verse:

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
-Psalm 51:10

Hobbies and interests:

Playing my clarinet, playing soccer, running, going to bible study, reading.

Best high school experience:

Playing a funny April fool's joke on my band teacher.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Studying music and being with other Christians all the time.

One strange thing I did as a child:

Dressed my little brother up as Cinderella!

aaron sharp



Home: Williamsburg, OH

Major: Graphic Design

Favorite Quote:

" There are certain queer times and occasions in this strange mixed affair we call life, when a man takes this whole universe for a vast practical joke, though the wit thereof he but dimly discerns and more than suspects that it is at no one's expense but his own."
-Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

Hobbies/Interests:

Reading, music, and photography definitely top the list.

Best high school experience:

My friends and I participated in Skills USA Ohio (a student-run leadership organization), attending elections at Fall Conference and competitions at the Regional and State levels. Some of us were elected to office, others placed in their respective competitions, and every time we had a blast meeting people, chillin' at the hotel, and touring Columbus, Ohio.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

I'm definitely looking forward to new people, new experiences, and new ideas.

If I could have any superpower...

I think it would be the ability to grant other people their superpower wishes, because I just like making people happy.

kelsey davitt



Home:

Rockford, IL

Major:

Pre-med/
Biology

Favorite verse:

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
-Romans 10:9

Hobbies and interests:

I love playing soccer, playing the guitar and the piano, and reading mystery novels. I also love hanging out with my friends and watching TV (I love the show 24!)

Best high school experience:

I went to every school dance and loved them all! Also once a year we have Spiritual Emphasis Week when we have two chapels a day and play team games instead of going to class!

In college, I am most looking forward to:

I am excited to make new life-long friends and grow closer to the Lord.

One strange thing I did as a child:

I would climb the walls of entryways whenever we had company over...or any other time my parents would let me.

rachel potter



Home:

Central,
South Carolina

Major:

Chemistry

Favorite verse:

Am I trying to win the favor of people or of God? If I were still trying to please people I would not be a slave of Christ.
-Galatians 1:10

Hobbies and interests:

Photography, photoshopping, contra dancing, swing/jazz dancing

Best high school experience:

Scavenger hunts at Wal-Mart, band trips, physics class with my hillbilly teacher

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Meeting new people and trying new things.

One strange thing I did as a child:

Evidently, I used to put myself in timeout when I did something wrong....I don't remember that, but I remember riding an elephant!

natalie wierenga


Home:

Winfield, IL

Major:

History

Favorite verse:

"I lift my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from

the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."
-Psalm 121: 1-2

Hobbie and interests:

Writing, reading, playing French horn, hanging out with friends, and playing soccer or volleyball.

Best high school experience:

I love the AP classes that I've taken and how they've challenged me. Also, band has been a wonderful adventure and a large part of my the past four years of my life.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

Growing spiritually, socially, and intellectually.

My favorite word:

Esperanza, it is a Spanish word that means hope and it has been my name in Spanish class for the past seven years.

rebecca amstutz

Home:

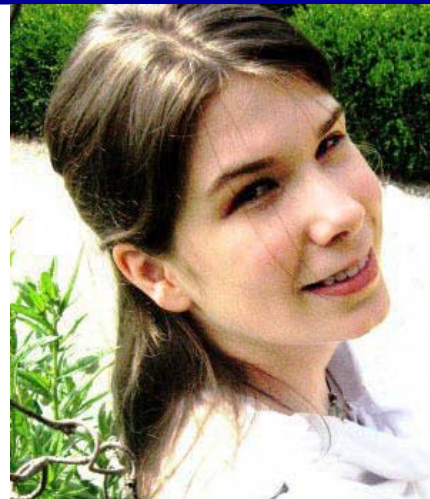
Janesville, WI

Major:

Biology

Favorite quote:

"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."
-Mother Teresa


Favorite verse:

"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."
-Jeremiah 29:11

Hobbies and interests:

My hobbies include reading, singing, and writing poetry. My interests include medicine and missions.

Best high school experience:

One of my best high school experiences was attending a charter school named the Janesville Academy for International Studies for part of the school day my senior year. We studied things such as world geography, history, and cultures; learned languages such as Arabic, researched global issues, and participated in activities such as attending the Critical Issues Forum on nuclear disarmament in Monterey, California.

In college, I am most looking forward to:

I am looking forward to the opportunity for growth. Not only am I looking forward to expanding intellectually and academically, but I'm also excited to grow relationally and spiritually.

If I could have any superpower...

It's hard to narrow it down to just one, but possibly the ability to speak all languages- to never have to worry about the language barrier would be wonderful. So would the ability to heal through touch or the ability to see a person's soul instead of their physical appearance.

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

KYLE KUNZMANN: BOWMAN HALL RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Hey guys! When you receive this issue of the Freshman Perspective, most of you will probably have graduated and settled into your summer routine. I'm sure you've heard this about five hundred times in the past few weeks, but I still want to congratulate you on the achievements of your life in high school... good job. Before I continue on to the actual purpose of this article, let me give you a quick synopsis of whose writing you're actually reading.

My name is Kyle Kunzmann. I will be a junior year at Indiana Wesleyan and with a double major of Adolescent Ministries and Biblical Literature. I also carry a minor in Biblical Languages and of course, am a part of the John Wesley Honors College. I have a pretty wide range of hobbies that include just about any activity that can be done outside, anything that involves video games, and anything that involves visiting other countries. If you want to know more, you're just going to have to talk with me next year... I would thoroughly enjoy it.

Now that you know a little bit about who I am, I have a small apology to make to the ladies reading this. The rest of this article is mostly directed to guys, so feel free to continue reading... but you could skip to the next article without hurting my feelings...

Men of the Honors College, I hope that you've begun to think about where you plan on living next year. Whether you have or not though, allow me to share my experience.

On August 30, 2007 at 8:30 in the morning I arrived on campus. My parents had flown me from Iowa to Indiana, I knew two people on campus, and I was supposed to register for classes, move in to my room in a dorm I knew nothing about, and be ready for NSO to begin later that evening. Needless to say... I was more than a little bit nervous. As soon as I stepped into my dorm though and went through a short welcoming initiation, I felt at home. At that time, I didn't realize how true that really was...

The dorm that has remained my home for the past two years is Bowman House. For those of you unfamiliar with the male housing available on IWU's campus, let me enlighten you a little bit. Bowman was formed into male, all-freshman housing in 1996 with a foundation of mentorship and Christian community. Since then, it has been consistently noted as one of the most significant experiences in the lives of its residents.

Many of you who have visited the campus may have heard some stereotypes regarding Bowman as the immature dorm due to the number of freshman guys that live there. Like many stereotypes ... that only holds a hint of truth. Bowman is a place where I have seen and experienced growth and authenticity in a way that is far beyond some immature assumptions.

If any of you have questions regarding Bowman or other campus housing, I would love to answer them. Feel free to shoot me an e-mail. I hope you guys have a great summer, and I will see you at some point in the fall!

Kyle Kunzmann (kyle.kunzmann@student.indwes.edu)



Questions about the JWHC?
Contact the office at
honors.office@indwes.edu
with any questions and
we'll be happy to clarify
things for you.

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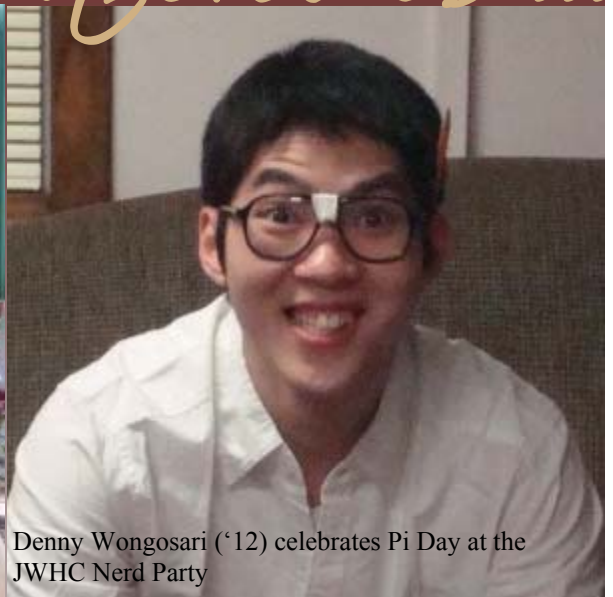
Check out the Honors College on
Facebook! Our name is John
Wesley Honors-College. There is
also a group just for the
incoming class, called 'John
Wesley Honors College Class of
2013!' If you have a Facebook
profile, feel free to join it.

facebook

from the archives...



Erin Suplinskas ('09)
and Karen Malaca ('10)



Denny Wongosari ('12) celebrates Pi Day at the
JWHC Nerd Party



Dr. Toland engages students in UNV180

REGISTRATION ALERT!

When you come to campus for registration,
you will meet with the JWHC

BEFORE you register for classes that day.
You'll have information in your packet about this.