

# *The Freshman Perspective*

The Freshman Orientation Newsletter for John Wesley Scholars

## John Wesley Honors College

Indiana Wesleyan University



**Congratulations JWHC Class of 2011!**

### Welcome JWHC Class of 2015!

Imagine: In four years, the picture of your graduating class will grace the front page of the *Freshman Perspective*. The year 2015 probably seems like a far-off date, but the next four years will pass more quickly than you expect. Just think about your time in high school; those four years likely flew by, and now you are almost a graduate, awaiting the new adventures of college!

Each month this summer, you will receive an issue of *The Freshman Perspective* — a JWHC publication designed to help ease your transition to Indiana Wesleyan University and the John Wesley Honors College. This issue introduces you to the curriculum for John Wesley Scholars. You'll also meet Dr. Riggs (the JWHC executive director), Sara Scheunemann (the program coordinator), and several future classmates. John Wesley Scholars Suzanne Augello and Paige Vacha, both of whom integrated time abroad into their studies this past year, are also featured.

Upcoming issues will cover a variety of topics—from extracurricular opportunities, to study abroad options, to important tips for your first year—and will introduce you to more current students, faculty, and the rest of the class of 2015. Welcome! We can't wait for your arrival.

LLLC Curriculum	2-4
Introducing JWHC Faculty and Staff	5
A John Wesley Scholar Abroad	6
Not Even Solomon	7
Featured Freshmen	8-11
Scholar Spotlight	12

# LLC Curriculum

## Forum? Tutorials? Liberal Learning & Life Calling Portfolio? What Awaits Me in the Honors College Curriculum?

Making sense of the honors “Liberal Learning and Life Calling” curriculum for John Wesley Scholars may seem a little daunting now, but soon you will be experts. Until then, you can rely on Prof. Riggs, the executive director of the JWHC and your advisor, as well as other Honors College faculty to serve as your guides. You will meet with one of our faculty during New Student Registration to talk about the curriculum and to receive advice about course selection for your first semester at IWU. This issue of the *Freshman Perspective* also walks you through some of the basics.

First, a quick word about the value of the curriculum: Prof. Riggs and other faculty members have spent a great deal of time and effort modifying and refining the JWHC curriculum since it was established over a decade ago. Each course you will take has been carefully selected because of its unique contribution to your liberal arts education. Individually, each class is meaningful, but placed in the context of the broader education you will receive at IWU and in the Honors College, the combination of these courses prepares you for a lifetime of learning and service in the Kingdom of God.

### Honors Humanities Core

During your first years at IWU, you will take several courses in the Honors Humanities Core. These classes are sometimes referred to as the “180s” because of their course numbers. The “180s” are required of all IWU students, but you, as a John Wesley Scholar, will take them in honors sections capped at 15 students.

Prof. Riggs teaches UNV 180 each fall; this course will serve as your “gateway” to the JWHC, introducing you to your collegiate education and covering a wide range of topics, from basic tenets of Christianity to current issues.

Other Humanities courses (World Civ, Philosophy, and World Lit) provide a foundation in the important events, themes, and literature that have shaped the world in which we live. Each class has unique projects and assignments that let you interact with the material in a variety of ways. For example, in ENG 180 students have worked together in groups to write and perform

an original play. HST, PHL, and ENG 180 are offered every semester.

Finally, John Wesley Scholars take Honors Forum on Faith and the Arts (1 hr) for four semesters to complete their fine arts general education requirement (replacing MUS 180). This sequence of courses will introduce you to the cultural, historical, and theological significance of the fine arts. You will also take Honors Forum on Christ and Culture (1 hr) for two semesters, in which you will explore contemporary issues in light of the Christian faith.

Both Forum series include a diverse schedule of free events, both on- and off-campus, including cultural experiences, plays, musical productions, art openings, discussion groups, and lectures. You will be challenged to reflect critically on these events, particularly in light of your broader liberal education and your developing understanding of the Christian faith.

# LLLC Curriculum

## LLLC Tutorials

Liberal Learning and Life Calling (LLLC) Tutorials provide opportunities for John Wesley Scholars to grow as Christian liberal learners. Through various readings, discussions, written work, and personal assessments, you will be challenged to deepen your understanding of the nature and purpose of a Christian liberal education, equipped to draw your general education and academic majors into a formative dialogue with your Christian faith, and taught to integrate a life of learning, spirituality, and service into the context of a holistic Kingdom-of-God vocation.

## Honors Electives

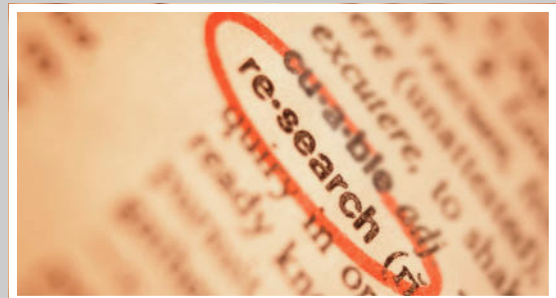
You will complete six hours of honors electives. To fulfill this requirement, students typically take general education courses as honors sections. For example, you might enroll in honors sections of Old and New Testament, which are required courses for all IWU students. Honors sections of these classes are perennial favorites among JWHC students. In the past, we have also offered "The History of the Muslim-Christian Encounter," which counts as a general education social science elective. In this course, students read texts that relate how Christians and Muslims have interacted throughout history, from the seventh century to the present.

## Research Tutorials

Honors Research Tutorials provide students with an opportunity to do hands-on research with a professor. You will take two of these courses, which serve as a useful and creative introduction to how research illuminates God's world. In research tutorials, professors integrate students into their research pursuits through semester-long projects that they complete in small groups or individually.

Past topics have included the religious and social history of the 1960s; the concept of grace in the early church; perceptions of singleness in the 18th century; the literary structure and social function of mythopoeic literature through the literary canons of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Madeline L'Engle, and Anne Rice; the northern civil rights movement; the history of evangelicalism in America in the 20th century; an examination of how we use language to talk about God; and theories of justice, using the Miami Indians as a case study.

We encourage you to begin taking research tutorials during the second semester of your freshman year in order to begin learning research methods that will prepare you for your Honors Scholarship Project, which you will complete your junior or senior year.



# LLLC Curriculum

Through an Honors Scholarship Project, you will pursue your own research and creative interests under the mentorship of a professor in your discipline. Students in the natural sciences will complete a course titled “Impacts of Science on Faith and Society” and will conduct research in one of our labs on campus. Students with other majors will be prepared for their Honors Scholarship Projects through “Honors Research Seminar” and will spend two semesters working on the projects they begin to develop in this course. Past projects have reflected the varied interests of our students and include everything from traditional research papers to an art exhibit for the visually impaired to novels for teenagers.

Most JWHC students present their work at IWU's annual Celebration of Scholarship. You will complete this part of the honors curriculum during your junior and/or senior years.

## Honors Scholarship Projects



## New Student Registration: Don't Miss the JWHC Meeting!

**Are you coming to New Student Registration in June?** If so, we look forward to seeing you! We'll meet with you and other incoming JWHC students at 9:30 am on your registration day. Look for more information in your packet when you arrive. You won't want to miss this meeting, in which we'll share all you need to know about registering for Honors classes.

**[wildcat.indwes.edu](http://wildcat.indwes.edu)**

The Wildcat page will be a helpful resource throughout your time at IWU. It includes all kinds of information that is useful to students, such as each semester's course schedule. In the drop-down menu under “Academics” at the top of the page, click on “Course Schedule.” You can find out what classes are offered each semester by searching for a specific subject, a certain time, or even your favorite professor.



# Introducing JWHC Faculty and Staff



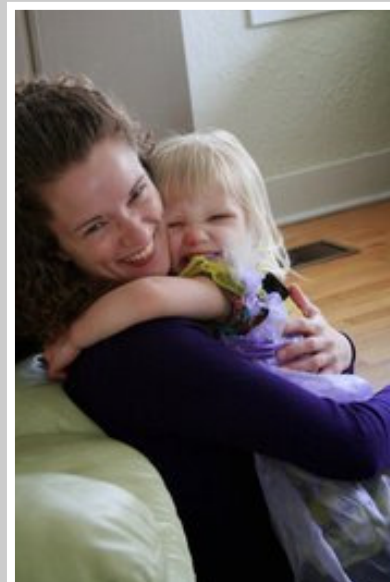
**Dr. Riggs, JWHC Executive Director**, (B.A., Azusa Pacific University; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; M.Phil., D.Phil., Oxford University) joined the IWU community in 2000. In addition to his duties as executive director of the Honors College, Dr. Riggs teaches courses in history, religion, and undergraduate research. His primary area of scholarly interest is society and religion in the ancient Mediterranean world. He also has a developing interest in the history of the Muslim-Christian encounter.

Dr. Riggs has written various articles and presented several conference papers on the religious world of late antiquity, focusing especially on the cultic life of late-antique North Africa. He is currently revising his doctoral thesis for publication with Oxford University Press (*Divine Patronage in Late Roman and Vandal Africa: Reconsidering a Local Narrative of Christianisation*). Dr. Riggs is also co-leading (with Dr. Chris Bounds) a research project focused on patristic conceptions of "grace" in light of Greco-Roman models of patronage and benefaction. This project is sustained by the undergraduate research assistance of students in the Honors College.

Dr. Riggs has been married to his high-school/college sweetheart, Laura, for over twenty 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, Christian, Alexandria, and Faith.

**Sara Scheunemann, JWHC Program Coordinator**, is a graduate of Marquette University, where she majored in English and classics, and of the University of Dayton, where she received her master's degree in higher education administration in August of 2009. In between her undergraduate and graduate studies, she worked for several years in a variety of administrative roles with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin. She also lived in Duluth, Minnesota, for a year before returning to grad school. Sara joined the JWHC as program coordinator in June of 2009.

Outside of work, Sara would most like to be found curled up with a book, scribbling in her journal, spending time with family and friends, or hiking in a national or state park. She also started running last year (well, more like jogging) and has found that she likes it far more than she expected. She is an active member of Gethsemane Episcopal Church in Marion and is hoping to enroll in a program in spiritual formation and direction in the fall. Last, but not least, she is a devoted auntie to her adorable niece, Cadence Rose.



**Next month's issue will introduce you to more Honors College faculty.**

# A John Wesley Scholar Abroad



**Paige Vacha** is a rising senior in the John Wesley Scholars Program and a nursing major. She is leading a New Student Orientation group for incoming JWHC students, so you will have the opportunity to get to know her well in September. Paige also works in the JWHC office at our front desk and will be serving on the Honors College Student Association (HCSA) Senate. Look for more information about the HCSA in our next issue of the Freshman Perspective.



As a nursing student, I am required to have at least one transcultural nursing experience. I completed this requirement last year, by studying abroad in Sierra Leone, Africa. It is hard to put the experience into a few simple words, but to say the least, it was an incredible experience. I felt like I accomplished so much in a few short weeks.



One of my most memorable experiences there was New Year's Eve. I spent the evening in an emergency surgery. We had to use someone's car battery to jumpstart the electricity in the surgical room. That night that doctors saved a little girl's life, and I was able to be a part of it. While I spent most of my time volunteering at the hospital in Kamakwie, Sierra Leone, I was able to visit different parts of Sierra Leone. In fact, one of my favorite memories was stepping out of my hut to see a beautiful sunrise.



This experience taught me a lot of things. I realized that studying abroad looks different for everyone, especially depending on the purpose for the trip. However, all the experiences are incredible, and with help from the Holy Spirit, these trips make a dramatic impact on our lives and the lives of those we meet throughout our experience. Personally, my study abroad experience looked a lot like a missions trip, and I believe God worked in my heart and the hearts of those I was serving.

# 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. Each month this summer, she will share one with us. Allison is a rising senior in the Mary C. Dodd Honors Program and an English education major.*

## **Live to die. A life lesson from a dandelion.**

*"Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.'" (John 12:23-25)*



We frequently consider the lilies of the field, but the persistence of a dandelion may drive us mad. The law of scarcity tempts us to believe that the commonplace is not beautiful, valuable, or even worth contemplating. But the dandelion is an echo of the sun, its life offering wishes and wine. These unassuming plants are not boastful of the territory they take. They announce their presence with only a single blossom, a shock of yellow on a bald stem. And they thrive free of bias, surviving and multiplying despite our neglect or attention.

The purpose of the dandelion is to live that it may die. From its birth it is usually hated: the ever watchful gardener rips out its roots and the random passerby rolls his eyes in disdain at an unkempt yard. What resources it does offer are stolen from insects, and it is rarely unique — unless it has been left to grow to an unusually large size, which provokes further delight in ending its life. Although its root may take hold and last for a good portion of time, the life of the dandelion flower (left unattended) is short lived. From hidden bud to aged snowball of seeds, the dandelion is continually dying that new birth can crop up.

In Scripture Christ tells us that we must lose our life to find it (Matthew 16:24-25). But how can freedom come from surrender? Saint Augustine writes that true rest comes from dwelling within God — killing off our hopes, ambitions, dreams, and fears to make room for his plans. Further, we exist to be instruments of his use, not self-motivated machines of accumulation, ambition, and individuality. Yes, to him we are unique (he knows the exact number of hairs on our heads!), but our life is not meant to be written as a legacy. The Book has already been written for the glorification of one Man. Still, our lives have such great value that they are to be in service to a King, making each life invaluable and essential.

By living to die, we relinquish our power for self-promotion. We no longer exist for ourselves because it is no longer us but Christ living within us. In dying we bear much fruit that is caught by something or someone else to be replanted elsewhere — to give birth and life in places we will never go.

Consider your motives. Consider how you spend your time. Whom do they honor?

"He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:30)



# Featured Freshmen

## Ali Cravens

**Home:** Geneseo, Illinois, a relatively small town of 6,500, about three hours from Chicago.

**Major:** Journalism

**Favorite quote:** From a devotional — “The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is simply the little bit extra. Go all out. Be extraordinary.” A wonderful prayer — “O Lord, give Thy servant this morning the eyes of the eagle and the wisdom of the owl. Illuminate



my brow with the sunshine of heaven. Possess my mind with love for people, turpentine my imagination, grease my lips, electrify my brain with the lightning of Your Word. Fill me plumb full of the dynamite of Thy glory. Lord, anoint me all

over with the kerosene of salvation, and set me on fire! Amen.”

**Hobbies or interests:** I love playing and working outdoors, reading, studying the Bible, hanging with my friends and family, playing the saxophone, traveling, and rocking out to awesome music, such as that by Audio Adrenaline, and watching awesome shows, such as *Phineas and Ferb*.

**Best high school experience:** I've loved meeting new people and new teachers. I've loved growing and learning about myself and others around me. I've also loved my time in the back of the French class with three of my besties, where who-knows-what could happen.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** All the opportunities at IWU. I'm totally stoked to go to church, like, four times a week and to have Bible studies and a chapel right at my fingertips. I hope to go grow tremendously at college! If not, I will have been sadly mistaken. I'm also very excited to get started on the road to journalism, whatever classes that may entail, and to hopefully get involved in the *Sojourn*. I'm so

excited to meet new wonderful people and explore everything the university has to offer!

**If I could have any superpower:** I'd definitely have to go with flying, that way I could travel all over the world whenever I felt like it. But I'd have to do some serious thinking about my wardrobe: cape or no cape? On the one hand, they're totally stylish, on the other, it get caught on a jet turbine, snag on take off, or get sucked into a vortex. Decisions, decisions.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** I'd really love to meet any of my favorite authors, such as Sharon Creech, Patricia Reilly Giff, Jerry Spinelli, or E.D. Baker. And if not them, any of the characters of *VeggieTales* would suffice.

**Favorite word:** Splendiferous, fond, wonderful... there are just so many amazing words, but I tend to favor those that are more formal and British, or just the ones that sound cool.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** Well, there was that time that I walked out of our house in the dead of winter without any shoes on — just went and walked down the street, with my mom chasing after me once she finally realized that I was no longer playing with my toys behind the couch.

## Camron Dawes

**Home:** Urbana, Indiana

**Major:** Chemistry/Pre-Med

**Favorite quote:** “...sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself...” -Donald Miller

**Hobbies or interests:** I love to play paintball, swimming, and hanging out with friends.

**Best high school experience:** I loved being involved with all the different clubs within my school, especially Key Club.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** The awesome blend of making new friends, learning, and becoming an adult.



# Featured Freshmen



**If I could have any superpower:** The ability to teleport, I want to see the world.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** FDR, he must have been some president to get America through a war, the depression, and be elected four consecutive times.

**Favorite word:** Aesthetics, the word itself is pretty, so it is fitting that it is the study of fine arts.

## Megan Emily

**Home:** I'm from Crandall, Indiana, but no one's ever heard of it so I say I'm from Corydon.

**Major:** Pre-Declared

**Favorite quotes:** "If the eye is made for seeing, then beauty is its own excuse for being."-Ralph Waldo Emerson; "If it ain't broke, fix it till it is."; "Wrong!"-line from a Waylon Jennings' song that's an inside joke between Dad and me

**Hobbies or interests:** I spend a lot of time reading and writing; I also enjoy singing. Horses are a huge part of my life (meaning I can honestly say I was raised in a barn), and I've spent several years training my own horse to be a jumper. Other things I do for fun are hanging with friends and family, taking walks, and photography.

**Best high school experiences:** Sophomore year in general was a great year for me. Other than that, I really couldn't stand high school and my best experience with it was leaving a semester early.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Everything but the sleep deprivation; I'm excited to go to classes where the students actually want to be there, and to make new friends, and do all the fun stuff — just the whole experience in general. I'm also eager to go to

a school where other people will share my beliefs and values. It will be really nice to have Christianity be the new normal.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would either want to be invisible or to read minds, so that I could learn what other people are really thinking (whether through reading their mind or listening to them talk when they don't know I'm there, whichever.) Invisibility has another perk, which is that I would be able to suddenly become visible and scare the living daylights out of people.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** I wouldn't want to meet anyone famous; I think most famous people are severely overrated. Instead, I would rather go back in time and see my family (grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.) in their younger days and find out what life was like for them.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** When I was three, I insisted that I was a horse and that my name was Wild Diamond. If anyone called me Megan, I ignored them until they addressed me by my rightful name, and I even made Mom write that on my birthday cake. Whenever I got mad, my dad would call me Dark Diamond instead, which he still does. (Thankfully, he gave up calling me Bubba once I got out of the Terrible Two's.)



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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 2015"! If you have a Facebook profile, join us! We also have an account for the Honors College Student Association.

# Featured Freshmen

## Sara Mak Hoffman

**Home:** West Lafayette, Indiana

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite Bible verse:** Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

**Hobbies or interests:** I enjoy running, I am involved in drama, I enjoy writing, playing my flute, and church activities like VBS!!!!



**Best high school experiences:** My best high school experiences have been church camp where I was saved and had a life-changing time, hanging out with all my friends at my sports events, directing our school play, and going on mission trips.

**In college, I am looking forward to:** Mission trips in college and making

new friends! High school is getting old!!

**If I could have any superpower:** Flying because I could get anywhere really fast, not have to pay for gas, and it would be soooooo fun!

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** Mother Teresa because I want to travel and serve like her and I think she is a great Christian and someone I could learn a lot from.

**Favorite word:** Xenotransplantation because it makes me sound smart and I actually know what it is — I wrote a paper on it so its fun to use in hangman games and to say!

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I was and am always barefoot, which some people call strange and I was afraid of the vacuum which is totally silly!

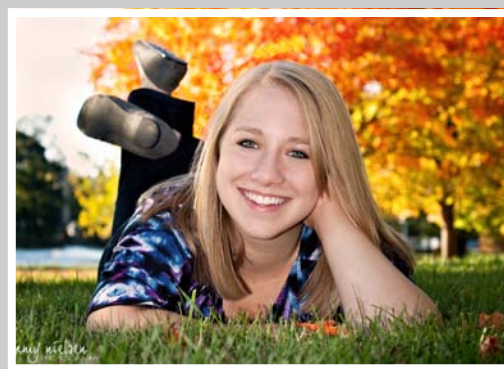
## Julie Schenhals

**Home:** Carlisle, Pennsylvania

**Major:**  
Pre-Declared

**Favorite Bible verse:**

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



**Hobbies or interests:** I enjoy reading, listening to music, spending time with friends, playing games, and watching movies. My favorite is *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Hilarious. My interests include Spanish, missions, and traveling.

**Best high school experiences:** In high school, I met my best friends, who I am so grateful for, and also thoroughly enjoyed the role of being Student Council President. Other great memories include my junior and senior powderpuff football games, because my whole grade came together as one and nothing mattered but having a great time and winning! The missions trip to Nicaragua I went on this past summer was also an incredible experience and had a huge impact on my life.

**In college, I am looking forward to:** The people! I love meeting new people so I am definitely looking forward to that. I'm excited about having great discussions with other students and forming awesome friendships.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would like to be able to fly, because I always tend to walk fast, so why not speed it up a little?

# Featured Freshmen

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** Mother Teresa because it would be inspiring to meet someone with such humility and love for others.

**Favorite word:** Lovely: In my opinion, it is just a beautiful way to describe something/someone.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** For some reason, I always wanted to drink the little coffee creamers at restaurants.

## Anna Smith

**Home:** Carmel, Indiana

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite Bible verse:** Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

**Hobbies or interests:** Running; talking to people; cooking; reading; historical reenactment

**Best high school experiences:** My friends and I dressed up like Red Hat ladies for a scavenger hunt.

**In college, I am looking forward to:** Meeting lots of new people

**If I could have any superpower:** Flying seems like it would be pretty handy... I spend a lot of time driving places.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** Victor Hugo... because he's the author of *Les Misérables* and I love his writing style.

**Favorite word:** Synecdoche — it's just fun to say.



**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** I used to clip Legos in my hair because I thought they looked like barrettes.

## Calli Williams

**Home:** Osceola, Indiana

**Major:** Pre-Med Sciences

**Favorite Bible verse:** Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

**Hobbies or interest:** Creating art and playing sports.

**Best high school experiences:** There are too many to choose from.

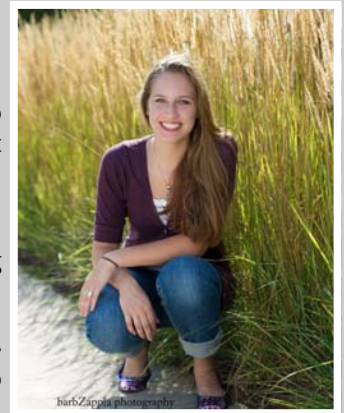
**In college, I am looking forward to:** Meeting my roommate.

**If I could have any superpower:** I wish I had the power to morph because then I could be anything from a bird to a fish to a cheetah.

**If I could meet one famous person, dead or alive (and excluding Jesus):** I would want to meet Sigmund Freud because I am curious if he would have a Freudian slip during our conversation.

**Favorite word:** Sphincter because it is fun to say.

**Strange or funny thing I did as a child:** When I was four, I drew all over my brother's face with a marker to turn him into a tiger.



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



# Scholar Spotlight

**Suzanne Augello**, a rising senior in the John Wesley Scholars Program majoring in computer graphics and illustration, presented her artwork at the 2011 Celebration of Scholarship, an annual event at which IWU students are invited to present their research and creative work.



Suzanne's installation, the culmination of her Honors Scholarship Project, was entitled "Facilitating Reconciliation & Community Formation Through the Visual Arts." The installation grew out of her reflections on six weeks in Cambodia. In her own words, it "explores the dichotomy between the

bondage of strongholds over a nation and the freedom of reconciliation. Each Stronghold door represents a specific barrier or prison of bondage while each of the Reconciliation Doors represents not only earthly Reconciliation but also the releasing of heaven over individuals, people groups, and nations."



## Up Next . . .

The June issue of the *Freshman Perspective* will highlight ways to get involved on campus outside the classroom.

