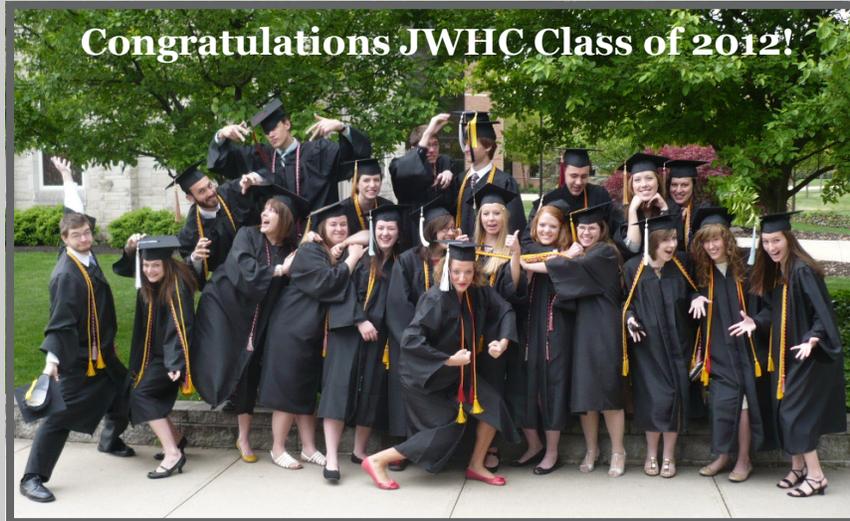


# The Freshman Perspective

The Freshman Orientation Newsletter for John Wesley Scholars

## John Wesley Honors College

Indiana Wesleyan University



## Welcome JWHC Class of 2016!

Imagine: In four years, the picture of your graduating class will grace the front page of the *Freshman Perspective*. The year 2016 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 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 mission and vision of the JWHC. You'll also meet Dr. David Riggs (the JWHC executive director), Dr. Lisa Toland (the associate director), Sara Scheunemann (the program coordinator), and several future classmates. Current John Wesley Scholar Dave Priest shares about his upcoming research activities and Mary C. Dodd Honors Student Allison Schroer describes her experiences student teaching abroad.

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 2016. Welcome! We can't wait for your arrival.

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# JWHC Mission, Vision, & Core Learning Outcomes

GLORIA DEI VIVENS HOMO  
“The Glory of God is a Human Fully Alive”

## JWHC Mission

The John Wesley Honors College (JWHC) is a Body-of-Christ-centered community of liberal learning, established to model and enrich Indiana Wesleyan’s pursuit of excellence in scholarship, character formation, and servant leadership. The JWHC thus strives to equip faculty and students to become more fully human in the image of our triune God by pursuing lives of truth, goodness, and beauty.

## JWHC Vision

The vision of the John Wesley Honors College is to foster a community of faculty, student, and alumni servant-leaders who faithfully pursue understanding, wisdom, and virtue. Our community engages 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 strives to be a nationally recognized leader in collegiate honors education, serving and enriching Church and society as it strengthens Indiana Wesleyan’s efforts to be a premier Christian university.

## Core Learning Outcomes

JWHC graduates are well-equipped liberal learners poised for a Christian life well-lived. This means each graduate will achieve the **core learning outcomes**.

Graduates should be able to:

1. Articulate the theological narrative of historic Christianity as the foundation of their life calling.
2. Define the virtues characteristic of Christ’s redeemed humanity and engage in intentional practices that nurture growth in these virtues.
3. Delineate the historical developments and cultural dynamics that have shaped the present age.
4. Conceptualize their anticipated career as an expression of their Christian vocation.
5. Integrate diverse knowledge, learning, and practices into a holistic engagement of everyday life.
6. Identify the roles that aesthetic expressions play in illuminating meaning and significance in life.
7. Evaluate texts, complex information, and contemporary issues charitably, contextually, analytically, and theologically.
8. Express ideas effectively through written and verbal communication.

# What is Christian Liberal Education?

Although the precise nature and purpose of a “liberal education” are matters of debate, **the basic goal of liberal learning is the holistic development of human potential conceived as a flourishing, lifelong participation in truth, goodness, and beauty.** In pursuit of this goal, a liberal learning community draws students into disciplines of intellectual, moral, and aesthetic formation in order to liberate them *from* ignorance, delusion, and vice and equip them *to* lead lives of understanding, wisdom, and virtue.

Accordingly, a liberal education challenges students to develop a holistic life calling that actively integrates various life pursuits into an intentional vision of truth, goodness, and beauty.

Whether by design or default, the character and aspirations of every liberal learning community are determined by a common vision of what it means for human beings to flourish and pursue lives well-lived. Any such shared vision is the product of a particular tradition(s) of wisdom. In other words, a liberal education is never values free or neutral about what constitutes the “good life.” Consequently, communities of liberal learning must be clear about what tradition(s) of wisdom animate both their working definitions of truth, goodness, and

beauty and their chosen methods for putting such ideals into practice.

Taking its cues from its namesake, the John Wesley Honors College cultivates a program of liberal learning rooted in the historic catholic tradition of the Christian faith and the vision of human flourishing this tradition of wisdom has articulated through the centuries. **Our understanding of truth, goodness, and beauty is oriented and shaped by the theological narrative of Triune love, creation, fall, incarnation, redemption, and spiritual holiness that the historic Body of Christ (in all of its many forms) has sought to embody.** Our conception of a “life well-lived” is inseparable from the human potential for faith, hope, and love Christ’s redemptive work established and from participation in the communities of self-giving love these spiritual virtues inspire. Our liberal learning community is devoted to educational and liturgical practices that develop incarnational lives of insight and imagination while creatively engaging the questions of human existence, the concerns of particular academic disciplines, and the complexities of everyday life. **In short, the JWHC faculty and students aspire to become more fully human in the image of Christ.**

In addition to achieving the learning outcomes outlined on page 2, it is our goal that graduates exhibit:

1. Devotion to the glory of God as expressed in loving and serving God and neighbor.
2. Faithfulness to the body of Christ as the primary community in and through which one is equipped and empowered to love and serve both God and neighbor.
3. Dedication to a spiritual rule of life that facilitates formation in Christian virtue through one’s encounter with the living God.
4. Proficiency in an academic discipline oriented by the habits of interdisciplinary inquiry.
5. Understanding of the interpretive power and methodological limitations of academic disciplines for elucidating truth and engaging the fundamental questions of human existence.
6. Practices yielding redemptive forms of diverse community locally, nationally, and internationally.
7. Healthy lifestyle patterns, mindful of how cycles of eating, exercise, work, and rest contribute to physical and spiritual wholeness.
8. Commitment to a lifelong pursuit of understanding, wisdom, and virtue.

## Program Goals

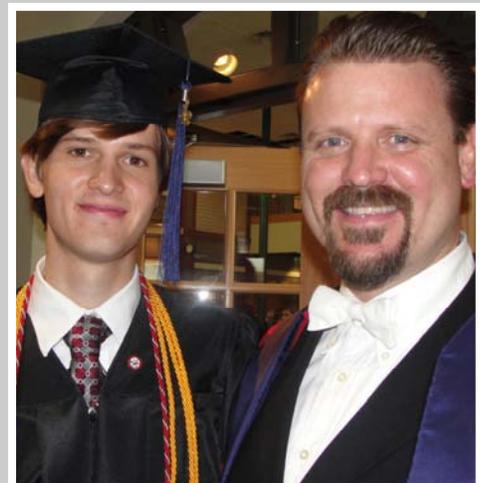
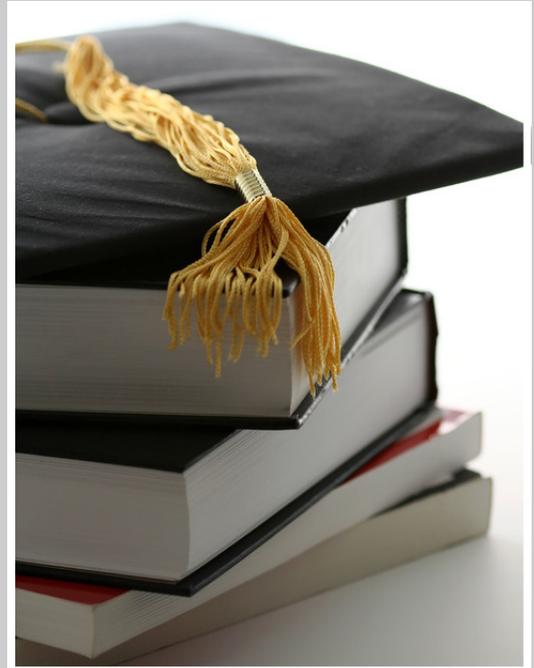
## How Does the JWHC Define “Honors”?

In recent decades collegiate honors education has witnessed immense growth. More than 1,000 American colleges and universities established honors programs in order to attract and retain academic high achievers. Although organizations such as the National Collegiate Honors Council help facilitate constructive reflection on the nature and pursuit of collegiate honors education, definitions of “honors” on many of these diverse campuses are either flatly generic in character or altogether non-existent. Such programs tend to serve merely as catalysts for vague conceptions of “academic excellence.” What constitutes “honors” at many of these institutions is determined primarily by academic expectations and methods of instruction (e.g., small discussion-oriented classes and individual research projects), as opposed to a distinctive philosophical approach to learning.

Samuel Schuman, a pioneering scholar in collegiate honors education, wisely insists that attempts to define the nature and purpose of honors programming must be deeply contextualized endeavors. He argues that, while every good honors program offers enhanced educational opportunities for high-achieving students, the best honors communities formulate their mission as a calculated response to the particular values, strengths, weaknesses, and needs of their broader institutional context. In such cases honors programs become “powerful opportunities” for universities to fill curricular and co-curricular gaps, bolster neglected aspects of the institutional mission, and strengthen institutional distinctives.

These factors should determine the “excellences” that an honors community seeks to cultivate.

In the light of our university’s mission, its strengths and weaknesses, and the needs of its high-achieving students and faculty, we determined that the essence of “honors” at Indiana Wesleyan should be an intensive preparation in “Christian liberal learning.” As a result, the JWHC serves the university by providing fertile ground for faculty and students to cultivate the meaning and “excellences” of a Christian liberal education forged in the Wesleyan tradition. *(continued on page 5)*



Jeffrey Dunn, Last Year's Honors College Student Association President, and Dr. David Riggs, JWHC Executive Director

## How Does the JWHC Define “Honors”?

The **distinctives** or “**excellences**” that the John Wesley Honors College seeks to cultivate may be summarized as follows:

- A strong grounding in Christian theology as one’s lived wisdom (i.e., developing both a familiarity with the narrative and logic of the “Great Tradition” of Christianity and an “incarnational imagination” that fosters a holistic embodiment of one’s Christian calling in everyday life).
- An appreciation for and participation in the historic Church as one’s chief “disciplinary” community (i.e., we want to be a Body-of-Christ-centered learning community in which faculty and students embrace the practices and disciplines of historic Christian worship as essential to our formation in truth, goodness, and beauty).
- An intimate familiarity with the virtues that characterize Christian participation in the Kingdom of God and a capacity to imagine how such virtues orient one’s career and daily life in a complex, fallen world.
- A well-developed aptitude for analytical and interdisciplinary thinking, holistic communication, and the knowledge, methods and skills of a particular academic discipline.
- Active participation in undergraduate research as a fertile avenue for modeling and cultivating liberal learning (i.e., research embedded in the curriculum, generating tangible results, and culminating in public engagement that enhances particular communities).

### **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. Look for more information in your packet when you arrive on campus. You won’t want to miss this meeting, in which we’ll share all you need to know about registering for your first semester’s 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.



*JWHC Sibling Connections: Meghan O’Grady (Class of 2012) and Colin O’Grady (Class of 2015)*

## Introducing JWHC Faculty and Staff



**Dr. David Riggs, JWHC Executive Director and Associate Professor of Humanities and History**, (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, spending time with family and friends, running, or hiking in a national or state park. She is planning to "run" her first half-marathon in September. She is an active member of Gethsemane Episcopal Church in Marion and is halfway through a two-year program in spiritual formation and direction. Last, but not least, she is a devoted auntie to her adorable niece, Cadence Rose (at right), and looks forward to becoming an aunt for the second time at the end of June.



# Introducing JWHC Faculty and Staff



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

**Dr. Lisa Toland, JWHC Associate Director and Assistant Professor of Humanities and History**, (B.A., Indiana Wesleyan University; M.A., Miami University of Ohio; M.St., University of Oxford; D.Phil., University of Oxford) is proudly and originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is also an Anglophile having lived in England for five years. She currently resides in Marion, Indiana, and frequently travels to visit family and friends. She has worked extensively in residence life with American students studying overseas.

Dr. Toland researches the social, legal, and economic experiences of early modern English families. She focuses in particular on women's legal and economic situations, as well as the rituals of death, burial, and commemoration. When in England she explores back corners of tiny forgotten parish churches and the lives of the people buried and memorialized in them. She is busy revising several articles for publication on testamentary burial requests by West Country elites, the economic independence of elite single women in 18th century Somerset, and the role of sibling correspondence in familial and individual identity formation.

Dr. Toland spoke at the 2009 IWU Academic Convocation on the Wesley brothers and the "life of the mind." She has most recently been published in *Christianity Today*. Dr. Toland teaches Honors World Civilizations, the History of England, and honors research tutorials on women in 18th century England, early Methodist female preachers, and the art of deciphering sixteenth and seventeenth-century handwriting in letters, wills, and other documents.

**facebook**

Check out the Honors College on Facebook! Our name is John Wesley Honors-College. If you have a Facebook profile, join us! We also have an account for the Honors College Student Association.



Dr. Lisa Toland, Hilary Moore (Class of 2012), and Sara Scheunemann

# Chaplain's Corner

*Michael Conner, a rising senior in the John Wesley Honors College, will serve as the Honors College Student Association chaplain next year. We asked if he would be willing to share a few devotional reflections about the transition to college.*



**I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.” As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight. (Ps. 16:2-3)**

*I said to the LORD.* Do you live a life of prayer? The first thing we learn about David from these verses is his disposition of prayer; he speaks intimately with his God. Prayer is the most fundamental human practice, because in prayer we hear God speaking and respond to him. This hearing and responding sets us in relationship with the one who made us, saves us, and directs us in all things. Prayer nourishes our souls, sharpens our minds, empowers our actions, and deepens our love. Pastor and scholar Eugene Peterson has captured the centrality of prayer: “Prayer is the most thoroughly *present* act we have as humans, and the most energetic: it sockets the immediate past into the immediate future and makes a flexible, living joint of them. The Amen gathers what has just happened into the Maranatha of the about to happen and produces a Benediction” (*The Contemplative Pastor* 53). In other words, prayer helps us process the past with God, plead his coming in the future, and—in so doing—provide purpose for the present. When we are attuned with God’s *present* presence, we can enter into each moment full of grace and truth. Yet prayer is often the first thing we neglect or postpone when pressed by the busyness of life, especially life as a student. The transition to college is one of the most formational (and busy) times in life, so I urge you all to commune with your God through this season. Prayer is not a task to accomplish; it is the essence of living.

*“You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.”* What, then, is the essence of prayer? *First*, in prayer we acknowledge our position before God. He is Lord, while we are his servants. A life of prayer is characterized by its postures and confessions of humility. Scripture is full of examples. It is the “Here I am” of Moses, the “Speak, for your servant is listening” of Samuel, the “Here am I, send me” of Isaiah, and the “Ah, Lord GOD” of Jeremiah. It is Peter’s confession: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” It is John the Baptist’s perspective: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” *Second*, prayer is the language of gratitude. We have no good besides God. He knows how to give good gifts to his children and has indeed given them! Creation and covenant, rescue and relationship, forgiveness and friendship, cross and calling, presence and power. He is worthy of thanksgiving and praise. The proper content of prayer—acknowledging God for who he is and thanking God for what he gives—will bless you as you enter college. Prayer will enable you to trust God more because you acknowledge him as Lord. It will also enable you to form meaningful relationships because, as one blessed by God, you will seek to be a blessing to others.

*As for the saints who are in the earth.* Protestants are uncomfortable with the idea of the “saints,” mostly because of incorrect ideas we hold about the Roman Catholic faith. Yet it is one of the most frequent words that scripture uses to describe God’s people. Those who enter into covenant with God through Christ are saints and called to be saints. Do you think of yourself in this way? Do you believe deep in your spirit that you are a saint? Forgiven. Redeemed. Rescued. Healed. *Holy*—not only in position but also in actuality. A recipient of a new name: Christian. A holder of a new power: the Holy Spirit. And do you believe that you can live into this identity in increasing measure? Your time at IWU, if lived out of a center of prayer, will be a season to grow into your identity as a saint, as a holy one. You have near-infinite resources at your disposal: classes that marriage faith and learning, chapels that provide worship and instruction, (continued on page 9)

# A JWHC Student Abroad



*Allison Schroer* is returning for her final semester in the JWHC next fall. She is a student in the Mary C. Dodd Honors Program and an English education major.

Student teaching is never easy. In fact, the goal is to get you, as a student, as close to “reality” as college can get: one semester, an early wake-up time, and hundreds of students who remind you whether or not you should be there in the first place. Although I’ve known I would be student teaching since I was a freshman, I learned that I would be teaching abroad in Scotland just a year before I left.



Cross-cultural student teaching offers incredible perspective. Six weeks are spent teaching stateside, six abroad, then two more at home. During my stay at Hamilton College—the only private, Christian school in Scotland—I was immersed in endless cultural opportunities from the country itself, the city I lived in, the school I taught in, to each classroom I instructed on a daily basis. While most of my friends continued teaching in Indiana, I learned what “education” and being an American means outside the context of home. I learned dependency on public transit, new currency, a different language (Glasgow Scots can be a real challenge!), and—most importantly—God himself.



Of all the experiences I have had in my four years at college, teaching abroad will always remain one of the most special and important to me. In taking an opportunity the Lord placed before me, I not only gained confidence as a teacher and student, but I found another place I would love to call home someday.

## Chaplain's Corner

(continued from page 8) professors who counsel and mentor, RAs who program and pray, churches that welcome your service and gifts, a community (Marion) that is in need of love.

*They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.* Do you notice the profound simplicity of sainthood, of holiness? It is pure and sincere delight in others. It is looking at those around you and seeing saints, holy ones, children of God for whom Christ died and in whom the Holy Spirit seeks to bring transformation. Are you treating others according to their worth and identity in Christ. Are you overwhelmed by the majesty of your brothers and sisters in the church? Are you burdened for those who live lost, isolated, and empty, who need Christ, community, and calling?

The secret to sainthood is living in prayer and delighting in others. You are responsible for committing your time at IWU towards this end. Know that I, along with the Honors College, look forward to journeying with you into “the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints” (Eph. 1:18).

# Featured Freshmen

## Rebecca Carraher

### *Servant Leader Scholarship Recipient*

**Home:** Xenia, Ohio

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite Bible verse:** “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27



### **Hobbies or interests:**

Community service, singing, tennis, running, writing, and crocheting.

### **Best high school experiences:**

Acting as Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, tutoring elementary students, and Key Club Convention.

### **In college, I am most looking forward to:**

**ward to:** Meeting new people and building new friendships.

**If I could have any superpower:** Teleportation, so I can visit my family, friends, and boyfriend without driving 2 1/2 hours while attending IWU, sleep more, and remove myself from awkward situations.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would travel to Swaziland to do missions work with orphans because I was supposed to go to Swaziland during the summer of 2009 and was not able to go.

**If I were stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Baby carrots, spaghetti, chicken, pistachios, and watermelon

**Strange thing I did as a child:** I had a worm farm in a Crayola chalk box.

## Hannah Combs

### *Servant Leader Scholarship Recipient*

**Home:** Lebanon, Ohio

**Major:** Writing, with a minor in Biblical Languages

**Favorite quote:** “If we begin with certainties, we shall end in doubts; but if we begin with doubts, and are patient in them, we shall end in certainties.” – Francis Bacon

### **Hobbies or interests:**

Reading, writing, running, thrifting, sewing, hiking, art, psychology, politics, puns and word-play.

**Best high school experience:** After school, my friends and I often pile into the back of someone’s van and talk for hours in the deserted parking lot.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Studying what I love.

**If I could have any superpower:** I’d be conversant in every language, in order to read literature as it was written and to be independent if I were to travel internationally.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would travel to national parks, in order to enjoy nature.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Toast and peanut butter (my manna and quail, respectively), Granny Smith apples, broccoli and mozzarella cheese.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** During second grade recess, my best friend and I formed a sewing club, à la Laura Ingalls Wilder. I desperately wanted to be a pioneer; I even had prairie boots.



# Featured Freshmen

## Angela Davidson

**Home:** Columbus, Ohio

**Major:** Biology, with a minor in Spanish

**Favorite Bible verse:**

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! For I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

**Hobbies or interests:**

I like to play basketball and the piano.

**Best high school experiences:**

Some of my best high school experiences are volunteering in the Clubhouse at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. One of my favorite stories is when I was playing dress up with two little girls. One of them looked sad so I asked her why she was sad. She replied, “Because I want to go to prom but it’s across the street and I am not allowed to walk across the street by myself.” Some of my best experiences are when our basketball team has our team bonding moments and all of us seniors give motivating speeches between the up-and-back’s we have to run.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:**

Meeting new people in college and entering into a new environment

**If I could have any superpower:** It would be to disappear at any time, because there are those awkward moments that I hate having to suffer through.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would have to choose between Greece and Peru. I want to go to Greece because that is where my mom’s side of the family is from and it always looks so beautiful in the pictures. I also want to go to Peru because I went there on a mission trip, and I never wanted to come back home.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Cantaloupe,



chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream, gyros, banana chips and bacon.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** I liked to dance all around my house and show my mom all my awesome dance moves I learned at ballet and tumbling class.

## Caitlin Davis

**Home:** I come from the small country town of Cedarville, Ohio.

**Major:** I am majoring in Pre-Med Science to go into Occupational Therapy. I want to work with kids with disabilities.

**Favorite Bible verse:** “But he said to me: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

**Hobbies or interests:**

I love to play soccer and tennis, although I tore my ACL so I haven’t been able to lately. I also weightlift, so I’ll be looking for a new weightlifting partner at IWU if anyone is interested. I would love to learn to play the guitar, but I have never had the time, and I enjoy reading, especially historical fiction.



**Best high school experiences:** I was so blessed to go to a Christian high school, and one of my absolute favorite things about my high school is the teachers. They invest a lot into the lives of the students, and I am so grateful for how much they care. I also loved when we would have specific spiritual emphasis days and we

# Featured Freshmen

would just spend the day in prayer for one another, for our school, for our community, and for our country. It was amazing to come alongside classmates and students to encourage one another and to grow in our relationship with Christ together.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Getting to know so many new people and seeing what else there is besides my small town and small private high school. I want to see how I can become an even bigger influence for Christ by expanding my horizons in college.

**If I could have any superpower:** This isn't really a superpower, but I would love to be able to go back in time and witness historical events and talk to famous people like George Washington. Going back to Bible times would be so cool! Imagine witnessing the parting of the Red Sea or Elijah praying for fire to fall down from heaven!

**If I could travel anywhere:** Definitely the Amazon of Manaus, Brazil. My dad grew up as a missionary kid there in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, and I have always wanted to experience it.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Pizza, pasta, this chicken enchilada dish my mom makes, milk, and "energy bites" (peanut butter, oatmeal, honey, coconut, and chocolate chips rolled together like a no-bake).

**Strange thing I did as a child:** I had a lot of awkward habits growing up, but I think the funniest one to me now (maybe gross to some people) is when my cousin and I decided it was cool to wear our tennis shoes without socks. By the end of that summer, my mom literally threw my shoes away in the dumpster down the street because they smelled so badly.

## Lydia Flynn

### *Servant Leader Scholarship Recipient*

**Home:** Geneseo, Illinois

**Major:** My major is still "pre-declared."

**Favorite Bible verse:** "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

**Favorite quote:** "Aim at heaven and you will get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you will get neither." --C. S. Lewis

**Hobbies or interests:** I really enjoy reading and writing, but I also love to sing. Camping, hiking, climbing, skiing, and swimming are great, too! I like learning about a variety of things—from math and geology to linguistics and history. I'm one of those people who is interesting in practically everything.

### **Best high school experiences:**

Some of the best times I had in high school were during Madrigal rehearsals and AP classes. Both of these experiences were opportunities to challenge myself and to form stronger friendships with other students.



**In college, I am most looking forward to:** I really hope to develop enriching and meaningful relationships with students and faculty at IWU, as well as to grow in Christ.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would love to be able to travel to any moment in time. I also hope that is considered to be a superpower.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I'd go to Ireland. I think it has a really interesting history.

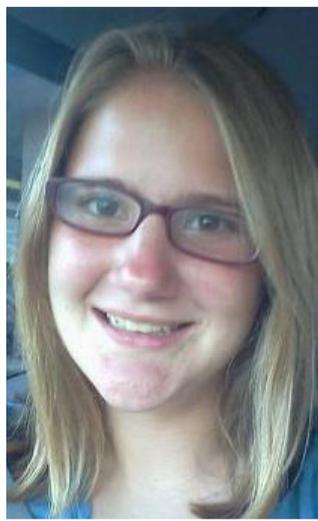
**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Bread rolls, beef stew, broccoli, baklava, and apples.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** When I was five, my mom let me stay in our minivan by myself for a few minutes. I got really scared that I was going to suffocate in the car, so I found the fire extinguisher we had in the vehicle and used it in an attempt to shatter the windshield, thereby getting fresh air. Of course, I didn't actually shatter the glass, but I cracked it and caused quite a bit of damage.

# Featured Freshmen

## Julie Forrest

### *Servant Leader Scholarship Recipient*



**Home:** Rockville, Maryland

**Major:** Special Education and Elementary Education

**Favorite Bible verses:** Proverbs 3:5-6 and Philipians 4:13

**Hobbies or interests:** I like playing sports, reading, hanging with friends, listening to music, volunteering with my church, bike riding, and helping kids with special needs.

**Best high school experiences:** When my high school soccer team won the 3A West Division in 2011.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Meeting new people and growing closer to God.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would choose being able to fly. That way I would be able to get places faster, and I would be able to travel around the world.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would travel to Australia because I want to see kangaroos, koalas, and the Sydney Opera House. I also love Australian accents.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Macaroni & cheese, grapes, chocolate chips, celery, and peanut butter.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** I used to read in my closet.

## Haley Meyer

### *Servant Leader Scholarship Recipient*

**Home:** I am from Millersburg, Ohio.

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite quote:** Favorite quote is between "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." -Martin Luther King Jr. or "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live." -J.K. Rowling.

**Favorite Bible verse:** "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." Psalm 147: 3-5 (NIV)

**Hobbies or interests:** I enjoy singing, playing piano, reading, photography, running, writing, sketching, etc. I sing in a worship band at church and enjoy working with kids.



**Best high school experience:** Winning the school talent show with my older brother. We sang an acoustic version of "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac. It was really fun and a good time with my brother.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Growing as a Christian at IWU, and learning how to glorify God in my career. I am also looking

forward to meeting new people that share common interests and goals with me.

**If I could have any superpower:** Super speed. I like to run. Being able to run as fast as I want would be amazing.

# Featured Freshmen

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would go to Ireland. I have a lot of ancestry there, and I think it's beautiful too.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, breadsticks, salad, strawberries.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** My mom could never take candid pictures of me. From the time I could sit up by myself, I would always notice the camera and smile at it.

## Justin Ridenour



**Home:** Angola, Indiana, which is in Steuben county

**Major:** Psychology with a Biology Pre-Med program

**Favorite quote:** "Heaven is under our feet as well as above our heads." - Henry David Thoreau

**Hobbies or interests:** Book collecting, philosophy, theater, playing/writing music, tomahawk throwing.

**Best high school experiences:** Hanging out with my girlfriend and best friend on goofy nights out J.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Good friends and the opportunity to expand my mind.

**If I could have any superpower:** Shapeshifting, so that I could creep on scandalous conversations.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would travel either to Scotland, because it's beautiful, or the Yukon, because there is little civilization.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Potato salad, veggie sandwiches, large steaks, beef jerky, and chocolate milk (I realize that the last is not usually

regarded as a food per se; I will include it nonetheless).

**Strange thing I did as a child:** My best friend and I used to run around my woods with large sticks and "sword fight" each other. I proudly wear the scars to this day.

## Kayla Sagritalo

**Home:** Athens, Illinois (a little town outside of Springfield, Illinois)

**Major:** Biology

**Favorite Bible verse:** Zephaniah 3:17: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

**Hobbies or interests:** I love hanging out with my friends, playing piano, using sidewalk chalk with my little brother, smelling the books in Barnes & Noble (You know you like to, too.), and watching football.

**Best high school experiences:** Throwing a surprise birthday party for my Spanish IV teacher and taking walks with my youth group to Dairy Queen every summer.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Meeting more people who are in love with Christ and challenging myself.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would have super strength because nobody (in my experience) takes a short girl's strength seriously.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would travel to the Philippines because I want to know more about my heritage, and the country is in such a need of physical and spiritual help.



# Featured Freshmen

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Rye bread because it's semi nutritious and definitely delicious, plums, Pad Thai, spinach (Popeye approved), and shrimp.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** When I was a child, my cousins and I loved the circus so we would put on performances for our parents in my cousins' backyard doing all sorts of "amazing" summersaults and "handstands." I have the tapes to prove it.

## Ashley Sobczak

**Home:** I live in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, but I'm originally from Owatonna, Minnesota.

**Major:** I'm double majoring in Psychology and Youth Ministry with a minor in Spanish.

**Favorite Bible verse:** Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a hope and a future."

**Hobbies or interests:** I enjoy playing piano, listening to music, and making art, along with reading and volunteering at church.



**Best high school experiences:** My favorite high school experiences have been my three mission trips to Zacatecas, Mexico, and going to "prom" with my best friend.

**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Getting to know God on a deeper level and getting to

meet people I wouldn't have otherwise met. I'm just really excited about the overall experience of college life.

**If I could have any superpower:** I would have the ability to transport myself. That way I could go to my favorite place in the world (Zacatecas, Mexico) any time I want. I would also be able to quickly get out of awkward situations.

**If I could travel anywhere:** The most obvious place would be...Zacatecas, Mexico. I love the people, the culture, and the city as a whole. It feels like home. I would also like to visit Europe because it's beautiful and historic.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Frozen yogurt, Noodles macaroni & cheese with chicken, home-made chicken noodle soup, dark chocolate, and asparagus.

**Strange thing I did as a child:** I got a tooth pick stuck in my knee and had to get it taken out without any medication.

## Victoria Watson

**Home:** I am from the warm and often sunny state of South Carolina. I was born in Anderson, South Carolina, but have lived most of my life in Cheddar (pronounced like "shedder"). Since Cheddar isn't technically a town or city (it really just consists of several neighborhoods), I went to high school in Williamston, a little neighboring town. Pelzer, Williamston, Cheddar, and Belton are all tiny neighboring towns/cities in Anderson County and have been where I call home. My home address is about half an hour away from Greenville, five hours from Myrtle Beach, four hours from Charleston and only ninety minutes away from the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

**Major:** Christian Ministries and Theatre

**Favorite quote:** "Be kinder than necessary, for every one you meet is fighting some kind of battle."

**Hobbies or interests:** I absolutely love music and like to sing and play the piano (though I'm just a beginner with the piano). Acting is another love of mine, and I enjoy watching plays, as well as participating in them! I also like hiking, painting, creative writing, and photography—I often do photo shoots for people. The biggest passion of mine, however, is spending time with God!

# Featured Freshmen

**Best high school experiences:** Definitely time spent with friends. I'm so blessed to have met the lovely people in my life! And I've met a lot of them in high school.



**In college, I am most looking forward to:** Meeting more lovely people! I firmly believe that God puts a person in my life for a reason and that each person I encounter helps me to grow. I also cannot wait to see where God takes me. I know life in college won't always be easy and that I will face challenges along the

way, but I am excited for it because I know that God is not finished with me yet.

**If I could have any superpower, it would be:** To fly of course! It has always been a superpower that I've wanted. When I was little, I used to climb on top of the car (while it was stationary of course) and jump off because I was convinced that I could somehow gain the power to fly. I just think it would be fun to be able to fly! Plus, it would be convenient... you could fly over traffic and get to places quicker!

**If I could travel anywhere:** As of right now, I would absolutely love to go to Davao City, Philippines. This is where my brother currently lives (he goes to college there...Ateneo de Davao University) and I miss him dearly! I would love to visit him and learn about how his life in the Philippines has been!

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** Hmm. Beans, oranges, Brussels sprouts, eggs, and can we count water as my fifth food?? Ha, if not...well, I don't think I could live without cheese! (By the way, I didn't list any meat because I'm a vegetarian!)

**Strange thing I did as a child:** Oh, goodness, there are a lot of those! Well, generally when a second child is born into a family, the older sibling will become jealous.

And oh boy, was I jealous of my brother! But I was the younger sibling by three years. I used to push my brother out of my mom's lap and chase him around the house. If anyone was going to get attention, it was me! Ha, but over the years, my brother and I become closer, like best friends! I remember that almost every afternoon, when I got home from school, I would walk through the door and find my brother already home from his school. Almost as soon as I walked through the door, we would begin singing opera at each other in loud, obnoxious voices. This would go on for like an hour. We would just walk through the house, going about our normal business, and sing opera at each other. We were (are) weird. And this singing didn't occur when we were very little. I'm pretty sure that we were both in high school at the time!

## Sara Williams

**Home:** I am from Chatham, Virginia.

**Major:** I want to major in Secondary English Education, TESOL, and/or possibly French Education (if IWU gets that major soon).

**Favorite Bible verse:** "Praying always with all prayer, and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication, for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

**Hobbies or interests:** I enjoy bike-riding, reading, writing, JESUS, and learning other languages, among other nerdy things, such as *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, the Vlogbrothers, and decreasing world suck levels.

**Best high school experiences:** Going to the State Scholastic Bowl Championship at the College of William & Mary, closely tied by mascotting for my school and attending the Piedmont Governor's School



# Featured Freshmen

for Science, Mathematics, & Technology (which was the closest to Hogwarts I'll ever get).

**In college, I'm most looking forward to:** Learning. That and friends. And how to be an adult. And how to stay a kid so I don't sound like an adult when I'm teaching.

**If I could have any superpower:** I'd have to choose between being able to absorb and use the powers of others around me, or simply being able to fly. Spidey senses are also accepted. Power Absorption because it takes away the need for decision when deciding on superpowers; flight because I love the idea of freedom. Spidey senses because at least then I could see the danger coming.

**If I could travel anywhere:** I would choose some time in the past, like during the Protestant Reformation, because A) Time travel is cool; and B) I'm going to hope anywhere means *Anywhere* on this Earth, at any time; and C) Because the future hasn't happened yet.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only eat five foods, they would be:** I'm not sure if you can count water as food, but if I were stranded on a desert island, I'd DEFINITELY want that! I would also eat coconuts, apples, PB&Js, shrimp lo mein, and carrots. Did I get all 5 food groups?

**Strange thing I did as a child:** When my parents used to ground me for misbehaving, instead of taking away play time, or electronics, they took away my books. I was forced to do something other than read. More recently, I know a song about quarks.

## Up Next . . .

The June issue of the *Freshman Perspective* will highlight ways to get involved on campus outside the classroom. We'll also introduce more of your classmates. If you've already submitted your responses to our questions, but aren't featured here, watch for your introduction in June or July.

## Scholar Spotlight

**Dave Priest**, a rising sophomore in the John Wesley Scholars Program, is majoring in English and writing and hails from Wheaton, Illinois.

**Favorite aspect of the JWHC and why:** I really love the community of the HC. Every professor genuinely cares about students and does everything they can to ensure student success. The professors provide a model, but the communal aspect is just as evident in the student body. The HC, and even IWU in general, is a wonderful place to find acceptance and friendship.



**What he loves most about IWU:** McConnell Coffee Co. is great. Anytime you want to find something to do, you can head there and people are always there.

**Advice for freshmen:** Don't study too hard. Expectations are high, and the HC is not always easy, but one of the most valuable things you can get out of college is social connectivity. And it is possible to do well academically without sacrificing your social life. Basically, enjoy your college experience— it's worth it.

**Upcoming research plans:** Early next year, I will be assisting Dr. Bressler (an HC and English professor) and two other students in publishing an article on their J. R. R. Tolkien research. We will potentially present this research at a few conferences. When we finish it, Dr. Bressler, two other students, and I will begin research for a grammar text book. It may sound boring to some of you, but we are hoping to throw off that perception of grammar. Instead of creating another workbook, we will put grammar in context. The textbook will simultaneously survey American Literature and explore how grammatical concepts inform it.