GPS sowing seeds of the future
Taking your communication to the next level
Katie Piekinczak
Article Contributor
Dear Incoming Freshmen,
Throughout the college application process, information sessions, word of mouth, Facebook, course registration, and now New Student Orientation, you have heard much about the Great Problems Seminar (GPS). These project-based classes give first-year students the opportunity to gain teamwork experience and solve real-world problems related to water, food, energy, sustainability, and other timely issues.
As a freshman, you may be asking yourself, “Why should I take a Great Problems Seminar?” My GPS grades (and some who were not in GPS) will tell you that the classes are challenging, hard work and time consuming. Some will say the class was worth it. I am writing this article to dispel those claims, dear freshmen, but rather to broaden your perspective. I took GPS after my second semester and recognized the need to help others in areas that I was previously unaware of, learn about new technologies and networks within the field of expertise, and express the importance of fresh perspectives.
Allow me to digress for a moment to congratulate and welcome you to WPI. Being accepted to this institution means that you are a good student, have some area of technical or scientific expertise and are highly intelligent. You were probably the top student in your class in high school and excelled in various academic and extracurricular areas. You may not have had the chance to continue your education in a manner that is closest to your heart and mind. You have been taught to be an effective team player and to solve problems in a variety of ways.
Yes, WPI will be hard work. This school will challenge you to grow. You will spend countless nights devising your time, energy, and ideas into something that has not been done before. You will face challenges that you have never encountered before. You will have to learn to work in teams, write, present, communicate, and make decisions that are effective.
I want you to know that you are not always easy to learn where your weaknesses lie and that strengthening yourself in those areas is not easy. You will find yourself working on teams, writing, presenting, communicating ideas effectively, and making tough decisions at work at WPI. The interdisciplinary approach can broaden one’s mind to think about different aspects of the same issue and solve new, unheard-of solutions. What will you make of it? What will you make of it with WPI? What will you make of it on the world? It might just be a little overpriced.
Sincerely,
Katie Piekinczak
I have been oriented
A new student’s perspective on NISO
Lucas Zacchetti
Towers Staff
Classes started on Monday, I mean Thursday. I mean that’s confusing. August 22 was a Friday, right? Yeah...
But before that, the WPI campus was already abuzz with activity. Sports, music, and even a herd of cows were all present on campus. The football season was in full swing, and the campus was buzzing with excitement. I arrived on campus on Wednesday, the first day of class, and was welcomed by the sounds of music and the sights of people enjoying themselves.
The NSO activities picked up where else?...with the Welcome Assembly. President Lesko and SGA President Alex Hyman were the first to officially welcome us. However, as the days went on, the activities became more relaxed. The next day,...

Following lunch, we had a series of aptly named events to be held. "I’d Be Changed," the first of these events, was held on Monday evening. The event was hosted by the student union and featured various performers taking the stage. The main event was a keynote speech delivered by a famous author. The audience was captivated by the speaker’s ideas and left feeling inspired.

The night was once again for relaxing, though this time I was already growing tired, and it was time to head to bed.

On Wednesday afternoon, I attended the annual freshman orientation. The event was held in the dining hall, and featured a variety of activities. The speaker was the director of NISO, who gave a talk about the importance of NISO in the world of software and technology. The talk was well-received, and the audience was left with a greater understanding of the role of NISO in the industry.

The night was filled with events and activities, but it was time to call it a night. I was exhausted, but I was also excited to see what the next day would bring.

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