



# news

SEPTEMBER | 2024

## Message from the Director

**Dear Honors Students,**

**Welcome to the Fall 2024 semester—especially those 120 of you who are new to WCSU!**

At 376 students, the program is now larger than it has been in years, and Caitlin and I are delighted that we are able to use the generous resources of the Kathwari Family Foundation's gifts to serve you. As you may have heard, the Kathwaris donated another \$500,000 over the summer for Fellowships to support those of you who want to continue into graduate programs at WCSU. More info will be coming soon about that program.

As you settle into the semester, keep in mind that the program is here to serve you, to support you and your personal and professional goals, and to help you discover future paths you may not even know exist yet. These resources are yours—we hope you will use them to the fullest.

Please do let Caitlin, the Honors Assistants (Natalie, Andrea, and Dani), our Honors RA in the Living & Learning Community (Gaby), and me know what we can do to help you get the most out of the program this year. And be on the lookout in the coming weeks for announcements about leadership mini-seminars and other Honors Activity opportunities.

*Dr. Brian Clements*

## CONTENTS

- 1 **Message from the Director**
- 2 **Meet the Assistants**
- 3 **Honors Success Story**
- 4 **Honors Course Spotlight**
- 5 **Honors Course Spotlight**
- 6 **September Snapshot**
- 7 **Upcoming Events**

# Meet the Assistants



## S. Salazar - Honors Graduate Assistant

S. Salazar is in her 2nd year of WCSU's MFA in Creative & Professional Writing, with emphases in poetry and grant writing. She resides in Washington State. Her debut poetry collection, *Raices, Relics, and Other Ghosts*, was published by Kelsay Books in 2023. When she isn't writing or studying, she enjoys hiking with loved ones and talking to her parrot, Gizmo.

**EMAIL:** [salazar049@wcsu.edu](mailto:salazar049@wcsu.edu)



## Dani Dane - Honors Assistant

Dani is a junior biology major (bioscience track). She assists with tracking honors activities and house management for the Kathwari Honors House. She enjoys public transit and using her UPass.

**EMAIL:** [honors@wcsu.edu](mailto:honors@wcsu.edu), KH House 102E



## Andrea Mandujano - Honors Assistant

Andrea is a sophomore majoring in Nursing and minoring in Psychology. She is taking charge on our social media pages! Outside of the Honors House, she enjoys baking, listening to music, and playing with her dog, Max. After graduating, she hopes to pass the NCLEX and become a Pediatric nurse.

**EMAIL:** [honors@wcsu.edu](mailto:honors@wcsu.edu), KH House 102E



## Natalie Ali - Honors Assistant

Natalie is a sophomore majoring in Biology and minoring in Spanish. She is excited to be helping with Honors House events this year! In her free time, she loves to read, workout, and paint. She plans to attend medical school after graduating WCSU.

**EMAIL:** [honors@wcsu.edu](mailto:honors@wcsu.edu), KH House 102E



## Gabriela Torres - Honors Resident Assistant (Litchfield Hall)

Gabriela is a sophomore Social Work major from New Jersey. She is also the Vice President of the Black Social Work Association and Senator for the School of Professionals. When she isn't hanging out in the Honors House, she is crocheting.

**EMAIL:** [torres267@wcsu.edu](mailto:torres267@wcsu.edu)



# Honors Success Story

## KATHWARI HONORS STUDENT MAIA QUIRK STUDIES IN SOUTH KOREA

Maia Quirk, a senior at WCSU majoring in Finance and Economics and part of the Kathwari Honors Program, studied International Economics and Business at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea this summer. Her courses, particularly in Econometrics, broadened her understanding of global economics and enhanced her data analysis skills.

Beyond academics, she explored South Korean culture through trips to Busan, Myeongdong, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Quirk credits the Barden Fund, the Kathwari Family, and the Kathwari Honors Program for supporting her international experience, which she believes will benefit her in both college and her future career.

Read the full Success Story here: <https://www.wcsu.edu/honors/2024/09/18/kathwari-honors-student-maia-quirk-studies-in-south-korea/>



# Honors Course Spotlight

## HON 398 - AMERICANS IN PARIS, ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING 2025

“Americans in Paris” examines the impact of space, time, and geography on ideas about American identities through literature, history, and the arts, with a focus on the lives and work of American expatriates in Paris from the 18th century to the present. The course will meet seven times for two hours each session (Thursdays, from 4-6 p.m.) and will culminate in one week of field study in Paris in mid-May. Students will visit sites central to building an understanding of the life and work of American expatriates. Destinations include Notre Dame, la Bastille, la Grand Jatte, Versailles, Opera Garnier, and a selection of Paris museums.

Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of global perspectives on American identities at home and abroad, through class discussion, written assignments, and field study at key sites. Students will read, analyze, and write about literary and historic representations of the shifting grounds of the expatriate experience over time, including works by Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Mary Wollstonecraft, Mark Twain, Henry Adams, Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, James Baldwin, and more!



**Dr. Leslie Lindenauer**  
(Professor, Department of History,  
Philosophy, and World Perspectives)



**Dr. Donald Gagnon** (Professor, Department  
of Theatre Arts)

**Cost:** The travel fee is being negotiated, but note that everyone who registered for this course in the past was able to procure the funds. Our goal is to make it as affordable as possible.

**Travel in Paris:** Tentatively set for May 20-27, 2025.



# Honors Course Spotlight

## HON 495 - NAVIGATING LIFE TRIP



HON 495 - Navigating Life Course, had its first outing this month. The class went to White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, CT. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize participants with the use of maps and compasses. After some brief instructions, students put the newly acquired knowledge and skills to use by attempting to find a few of the “flags” which are affixed in the permanent orienteering course.

## HON 398 - NEW YORK CITY AS TEXT FIRST TRIP



New York City as Text took its first trip this past weekend! Led by Dr. Jennifer Duffy, the class visited the Museum of the American Indian, the Financial District, the South Street Seaport, and the African Burial Ground. The group ended the day with a ferry ride from Wall Street to Clason Point.



## UNDERSTANDING SUICIDE COURSE CERTIFICATES

All students enrolled in Professor Reynolds's Understanding Suicide Course have earned their Suicide Prevention Certifications. Congratulations to Professor Reynolds's teaching and her students' hard work in earning this very important certification!





# September Spotlight

## HONORS VOLUNTEERS AT WESTCONN DAY OF SERVICE



The Kathwari Honors Program had 5 overflowing volunteer groups for WestConn Day of Service this year with a total of 75 students in the Honors groups and additional Honors students with other groups scattered around the Greater Danbury area. The Honors groups volunteered as teacher's helpers at Pembroke Elementary School, conducted clean-up projects with Housatonic Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and dedicated time at a local senior citizen's home. Groups also assisted with various maintenance projects at Pegasus Equine Therapy Farm and at the Jane Goodall Permaculture Garden on the Midtown campus.



## CARAMEL APPLE EVENT

Honors students stepped into the fall spirit by making caramel apples with a variety of toppings. Students made caramel apples covered in sprinkles, m&ms, and chocolate drizzle/sauce.



# Upcoming Events

**OCTOBER**  
**1st**  
 TUESDAY

## HONORS ABROAD INFO SESSION AND PANEL

**HONORS STUDENTS:** Join us at 11:00 AM in the Kathwari Honors House for our information session on traveling abroad. This event will provide you with information about study abroad options for you, financial aid and funding, the application process and more. You will also have the chance to hear about the experiences abroad from our own Honors students from this past summer.

**OCTOBER**  
**18th**  
 FRIDAY

## HONORS CRAFTING

**HONORS STUDENTS:** Need to de-stress? Come join us at 10:00 AM at the Kathwari Honors House for our crafting event! There will be a variety of crafts to choose from and will be a great way to unwind, connect with fellow students, and be creative.

**OCTOBER**  
**19th**  
 SATURDAY

## KHP ALUMNI REUNION AT HOMECOMING

**HONORS ALUMNI ONLY:** Join us at the first-ever Kathwari Honors Program Reunion and a fun-filled day at Homecoming 2024 on the Westside Campus! Continental breakfast from 10am-12pm, Reunion City from 12pm-5pm, and the football game starts at 5pm. **REGISTER HERE!**

**OCTOBER**  
**30th**  
 WEDNESDAY

## HONTEd MOVIE NIGHT

**HONORS STUDENTS:** Join us in the Kathwari Honors House from 6:00-8:00 PM for the annual *HONTEd* Movie Night! Popcorn, candy, snacks and drinks will be provided. Costumes are strongly encouraged!

**NOVEMBER**  
**5th**  
 TUESDAY

## HONORS REGISTRATION NIGHT

**HONORS STUDENTS:** Honors Priority Registration for spring 2025 classes opens at midnight on November 6th. Honors Assistants will be present if you need any help with the registration process or have any questions. Join us in the Honors House for a late-night gathering with games, food and fun from 10:30 PM - 12:30 AM.



Join us for the 1st ever  
**Kathwari Honors Program**

**ALUMNI REUNION**

**WESTCONN HOMECOMING**

**Saturday, October 19, 2024**

**10am-5pm on the Westside Campus**

**REGISTER HERE!**