

news

NOVEMBER | 2023

Message from the Editors of *Perspective*

Hello, Honors!

We hope you are finding time for rest and relaxation during this busy finals season. Although the fall semester is almost over, we are still **accepting submissions to *Perspective*, the Honors Magazine!** Creative and academic submissions will be open until further notice. We recognize this has been an exceptionally busy semester and want to give everyone who wants to submit a chance to submit their work.

We also would like to extend a warm **thank you** to everyone who has submitted already! We have received so many **wonderful photos and written pieces and artwork**, and we are so **grateful** that you are trusting us with your creations.

If you are on the fence about submitting, please remember that you do not have to submit something that rivals *Starry Night* or *Frankenstein*. **Your art and writing (creative or academic) are beautiful** no matter how much training you have. **Your papers are worth reading** whether you are taking Intro to Psychology or are well into your historical thesis.

If you don't want to submit a paper or have anything written but have done some very cool research lately, we can also write a research profile about you! If you're interested, send an email with a brief description of your work, and we'll set up a time to discuss the profile process ASAP. Don't reject yourself; send your work to honors@wcsu.edu today!

Sincerely, *Michelle Rochniak and Alivia Stonier*

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Honors Alumni Spotlight

WCSU KATHWARI HONORS GRADUATE AND PROFESSOR OF HONORS 100, NAMED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DANBURY STUDENT AND BUSINESS CONNECTION (DSABC)

Read the article from HamletHub.com, written by Taylor O'Brien below.

<https://news.hamlethub.com/danbury/neighbors/51147-danbury-student-and-business-connection-announces-new-executive-director-alexis-koukos>



Danbury Student and Business Connection (DSABC), the non-profit driving mentorship programming between students of Danbury Public Schools and employees of local businesses, is thrilled to announce the hiring of Alexis Koukos, to lead DSABC in the role of Executive Director.

Koukos joins DSABC with a decade of experience in student programming and business operations, most recently with the Western Connecticut State University Foundation. Previously, she held the role of Chief Operating Officer at the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, advancing their mission of increasing access to social and emotional learning. Koukos also held a management role for the Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts.

She brings valuable leadership experience in fiscal management, program development, event management, and grant research to DSABC.

DSABC Board President Jen Tomaino shared: "Alexis' history of leadership in the local business community and her depth of experience in student-based programming will be invaluable to our mission of serving the Danbury Public Schools. The board is confident that her ideas and energy will enable our current programs to flourish and bring more business and community interest to DSABC. We're excited to have her."

Executive Director Alexis Koukos shared: "I'm thrilled to lead DSABC and drive impactful mentorship programming in the Danbury Public Schools. This role has been on my radar for a number of years as I have always felt my career focus thus far aligns strongly with DSABC's mission. I look forward to working with our mentors and the Danbury students, engaging further with the greater Danbury business community, and continuing to expand our presence in western Connecticut."

Danbury Superintendent of Schools Kevin Walston shared: "We're excited to see Alexis, a product of the Danbury Public Schools, hired to lead such impactful programming for our students. I look forward to continuing our work with DSABC and further increasing access to mentorship opportunities for the Danbury students."

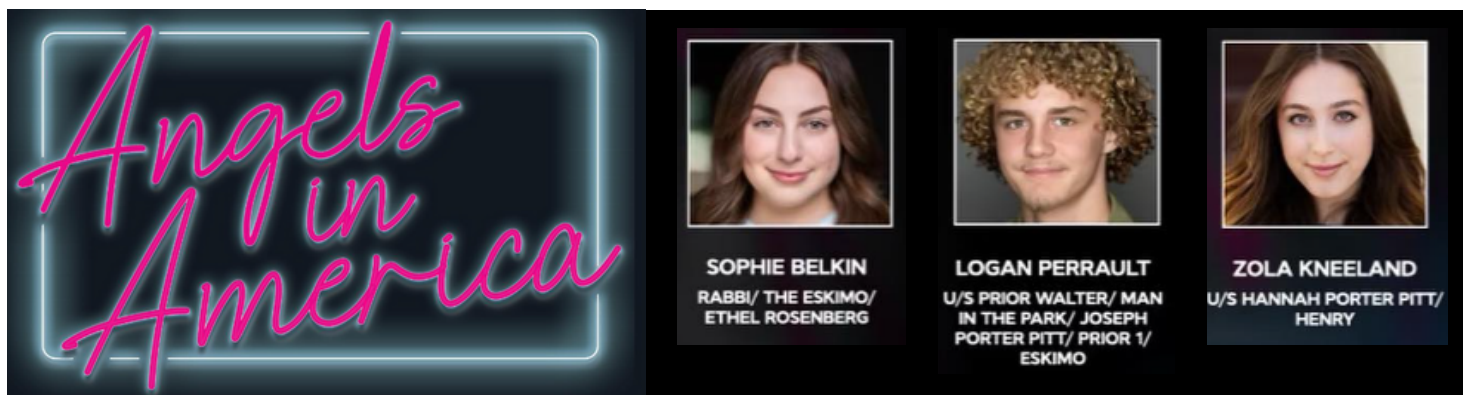
Koukos is also an adjunct professor at WCSU, where she holds a Bachelor of Business Administration. She obtained a Master of Science in Education Entrepreneurship from the University of Pennsylvania in 2022. Koukos is filling the role of Susan Queenan who resigned due to relocation. Queenan remains an active partner to ensure continuation of existing student programs including two she founded, Foundations for Your Future and Seeds of STEM.



Honors Students in Action

HONORS STUDENTS SHINE IN *ANGELS IN AMERICA*, PART ONE: *MILLENIUM APPROACHES*

Congratulations to our Kathwari Honors students on their performance and production of *Angels in America, Part One: Millenium Approaches*, which ran November 3rd - 12th at the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the westside campus.



SPOTLIGHT ON HONORS STUDENT, EMILY KAPPEL AND THE WCSU FOOD PANTRY



Emily Kappel is a junior at WCSU, a Kathwari Honors Student, SGA Senator, Philanthropy Committee Chair, WCSU Food Pantry Coordinator and a double major in managerial accounting and applied mathematics with an actuarial science concentration. In the fall of 2021, Emily started as a quiet and shy freshman unsure of how to be involved on campus. Still in the grasp of the COVID-19 pandemic, only a few student organizations were active on campus so Emily accepted positions as a Math Emporium TA and a tutor in the Math Clinic. However, given that these were both paid positions, Emily realized that these roles did not satisfy her desire to partake in more community service-oriented activities.

As such, she decided to apply to the Student Government Association during the fall of her sophomore year and joined the Philanthropy Committee as a Representative, where she now serves as the chair. Emily feels fortunate to have joined at a time when the Philanthropy Committee was undertaking some major initiatives to improve student life on campus. One such initiative was establishing a Food Pantry.

"As someone who grew up low-income, this was a project that I was very passionate about and so I decided to join the working group committee where fellow SGA members, administration, and myself worked tirelessly together to bring this idea to fruition. Knowing that I could play such an important role in improving the lives of other students fills me with joy."

Emily now serves as the WCSU Food Pantry Coordinator, where she oversees operations. **The WCSU Food Pantry is open Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm located currently in the Executive Dining Room of the Student Center. It is a completely confidential service and is open to all students, no questions asked!**

Honors Leadership Seminars

LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH & MEDICINE AT DANBURY HOSPITAL

Twelve students from the Kathwari Honors Program were invited to attend a seminar on Leadership in Health & Medicine on Wednesday, October 25th at Danbury Hospital with Dr. William Begg, Chair of Emergency Medicine. All students in attendance are planning to pursue various fields in medicine, health care and management. How fortunate our students were to get such an exclusive experience with leaders at Danbury Hospital and in the Emergency Room.



LEADERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS & DIPLOMACY AT ETHAN ALLEN HEADQUARTERS

On November 1st, a group of WCSU Kathwari Honors students were hosted at the stunning International Ethan Allen Headquarters in Danbury for a leadership seminar, conversation, lunch and exclusive tour of their operations, led by Farooq Kathwari, Chairman, President and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. who is also the generous benefactor of the Kathwari Honors Program. Mr. Kathwari introduced the students to many of the company's long standing leaders and employees in various departments and shared details and visuals of his personal and professional journey. Mr. Kathwari and the students were joined in conversation by WCSU President Manohar Singh; Caitlin Kennedy, Assistant Director of the Kathwari Honors Program; Maria Veilleux, Executive Director of the WCSU Foundation; and Marcia Firsick, Director of Communications and Marketing at WCSU.



Upcoming Events



HSOC Gingerbread House Contest

ALL WCSU: The Honors Students of Compassion Club is hosting a gingerbread house contest. Come show us your cookie architecture, icing painting and exterior decorating skills for a chance to win a \$50 prize. All materials and food will be provided.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 6th from 6:00 - 8:00pm

WHERE: Kathwari Honors House



Honors Holiday Hangout & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Honors Students: Join us in the Honors House to relax, bake cookies, watch holiday movies, drink hot-chocolate and participate in our White Elephant gift exchange (OPTIONAL).

What is a White Elephant Gift Exchange?

1. Everyone who wants to participate brings a wrapped gift in the \$5-\$20 range.
2. Everyone puts their wrapped gift into the communal pile.
3. All players draw numbers to determine the order of gift selection.
4. The player with the number 1 is first to select a gift from the pile and unwrap it so everyone can see what it is.
5. The player with number 2 can choose to either pick a wrapped gift from the pile or steal a player's unwrapped gift. Anyone who gets their gift stolen in this way can do the same – choose a new gift or steal from someone else.
6. After all players have had a turn, the first player gets a chance to swap the gift they are holding for any other opened gift. Anyone whose gift is stolen may steal from someone else (as long as that person hasn't been stolen from yet). When someone declines to steal a gift, the game comes to an end.

WHEN: Friday, December 8th from 10:00am - 12:00pm

WHERE: Kathwari Honors House



GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL PAPERS, PROJECTS AND EXAMS!

