



news

FEBRUARY | 2024

Message from the Director

Dear Honors Students,

As we near the mid-term point of the Spring 2024 semester, I want to congratulate you all on the reinvigoration of the Kathwari Honors Program. So many of you have contributed by attending events such as our leadership seminars at Danbury Hospital and Ethan Allen, our upcoming behind-the-scenes and behind-the-walls events at White Rose in NYC and, forthcoming, the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford; by participating in Open House, and the Meet & Greet, as well as signing up to help out with our upcoming Accepted Students Days.

Soon we will see off a whole host of Kathwari Honors graduates—many of you will be going on to jobs right away or to grad school (congrats on your acceptances! Please be sure to let us know about them so we can celebrate them with you. And when you've made a choice, send us a pennant for the stairwell!). If you haven't already, please consider signing up for the March 18 workshop with Dr. Brandon Brown—especially those of you going into STEM fields. I guarantee what he has to share with you will enrich your skills in whatever is next for you after WCSU.

I hope to see more of you around the Kathwari Honors House the second half of this semester—stop by my office and say hello!

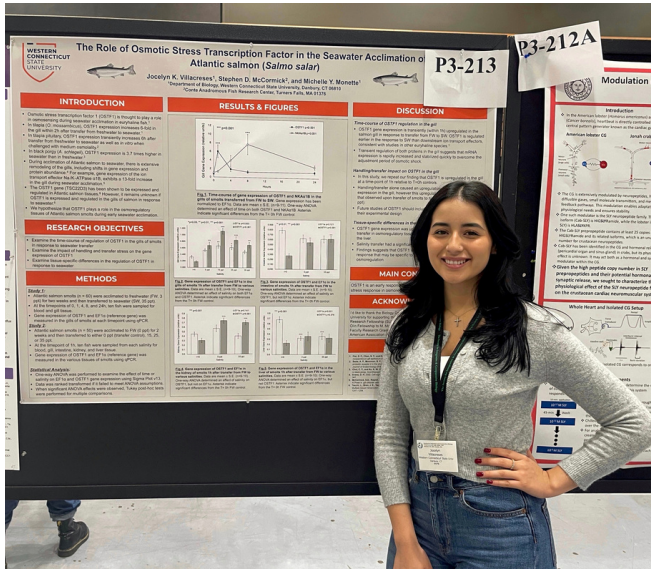
Dr. Brian Clements

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Honors Student Spotlight

SPOTLIGHT ON JOCELYN VILLACRESES PRESENTING HER RESEARCH AT THE SCIENCE OF INTEGRATIVE & COMPARATIVE BIOLOGY CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE



Jocelyn Villacreses is a senior biology major at WCSU. For the last two years she has been conducting research with Dr. Michelle Monette investigating the role of Osmotic Stress Transcription Factor 1 (OSTF1) in the seawater acclimation of the Atlantic Salmon. She began her research journey through the summer undergraduate research fellowship (SURF) offered at WCSU the summer of 2022. There, her findings were presented at Western Research Day where her work was awarded as one of the top 10 poster presentations. She continued her research in the summer of 2023 as part of her Advanced Senior Research capstone course. Over intersession, Jocelyn was invited to attend the Science of Integrative and Comparative Biology conference in Seattle, Washington to present her findings. Upon graduation Jocelyn plans to apply to medical school!

“I’d like to thank the Honors Program for helping fund a portion of my travel expenses to Seattle so I can represent WCSU. I feel very fortunate to know that the program supports their students with these types of opportunities through the Barden Travel Fund.”

SPOTLIGHT ON HEATHER FOTHERINGHAM WORKING IN A DANBURY COLLECTIVE IMPACT GROUP



Heather, a senior Social Works major, works with The Danbury Collective, a group that is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all in Danbury through a cradle-to-career approach. It's a collaborative effort of community members, organizations, and institutions working towards systemic change. Its members focus on key initiatives like Chronic Absenteeism, Early Childhood Education, and Youth Mental Health. In the Youth Mental Health group, they analyze data to define issues and map available support resources. Meanwhile, in the Chronic Absenteeism group, they're developing branding to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance. Both initiatives are interconnected, and they're working to address their relationship. The work of the Danbury Collective will be based

on listening to student, parent, and community voices to determine the root causes of differences in opportunities enabling all to thrive and become successful by removing conditions adversely affecting educational equity. **Join their next meeting on March 12th at 5:30 pm to learn more! Feel free to reach out to Heather at fotheringham002@wcsu.edu for additional information.**

Honors Student Spotlight

SPOTLIGHT ON SANDRA MOOD, SECRETARY OF WESTERN IMPROV GROUP (WIG)



As a dedicated member and the secretary of the Western Improv Group (WIG), Sandra has actively contributed to fostering creativity and community within the organization. This semester, she has been deeply involved in curating engaging events that showcase the group's improvisational talents and connect with their audience on a profound level. From organizing their highly successful monthly shows, their most popular being Wigoween, Wigsgiving, and Wigentines to name a few, to their highly anticipated Murder Mystery show and their upcoming workshop with the professional improv company SeaTea, Sandra's commitment to WIG's mission of fostering collaboration and laughter knows no bounds. In addition, WIG host weekly meetings in VPAC 334 every Friday from 5-6:30 PM where they play short-form improv games and cultivate a spirit of spontaneity and fun.

At WIG, they believe in the transformative power of improvisation to not only entertain but also to build confidence, empathy, and teamwork skills. Join WIG as its members continue to push the boundaries of creativity and laughter!

Honors Class in Action

STUDENT RESEARCH EXCHANGE DAY BETWEEN WCSU HON/HPX EXERCISE AS MEDICINE STUDENTS AND JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

On February 6, four Graduate students from **James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville, Australia** woke up bright and early (7 am!) to present their research projects (systematic literature reviews on exercise and health) via Zoom to Kathwari Honors Students in HPX 269/HON 298-03 Exercise as Medicine, taught by Prof. Jeff Schlicht. In May, some of these same WCSU students will reciprocate by presenting the results of their semester-long research projects virtually to students at JCU.

Thank you to our JCU presenters, WCSU audience, and Prof Jeff Schlicht

Please complete your evaluations and pass onto Prof Schlicht prior to leaving

JCU Best on Day Presentation will be announced in the coming days once feedback is tabulated

JCU looks forward to watching WCSU presentations on **Thursday 2nd May 2024 (AEST)....**




Honors Housing Opening Fall 2024

ATTENTION HONORS STUDENTS!

We are thrilled that the Kathwari Honors Living & Learning Community will be re-opening in the fall of 2024! For those of you who currently live or are interested in living on campus, we encourage you to consider selecting Honors Housing on your housing form. **The Kathwari Honors Living & Learning Community will provide up to 36 Kathwari Honors students a unique opportunity to live in one wing of Centennial Hall on the Westside campus where you can experience Honors-only social, academic, and extracurricular events.** Events may include meetings of our Honors Students of Compassion club, karaoke and movie nights, meetings with alumni and guest speakers, game nights, book club, early registration parties, and ice cream socials—and other events you will be able to organize. **Our Director, Dr. Brian Clements, will be holding weekly office hours in Centennial** and will be available to speak and work with you where you live. We will have a Resident Assistant who will work with us to help us navigate the residence halls and the university environment. This community will allow you to get to know a broad cross-section of WCSU students: first-year through seniors, with Theatre Majors, Business majors, Music, Writing, History, English, Communication, Nursing—you name it!

You can select your suitemates, but all students must be current Kathwari Honors students to live in honors housing. Make sure to follow the housing process. There will be 9 suites of 4 available. Centennial suites feature two double bedrooms with a bathroom, kitchenette, and living room. Please let us know if you have any questions about the Kathwari Honors Living & Learning Community and remember to select Honors Housing in your housing application.

1 PAY YOUR \$250 HOUSING DEPOSIT DUE MARCH 20TH



Scan the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#) to pay online.

2 COMPLETE HOUSING APPLICATION DUE MARCH 22ND



Scan the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#) to access the housing portal. Your housing application will be available to you in the housing portal about 6 hours after you pay your \$250 deposit.

3 ROOMMATE SELECTION DUE MARCH 22ND

1. Decide who you want to live with in your suite or apartment.
2. In the Housing Portal, choose Room and Roommate Selection from the Left Menu, then choose Select Roommates. **PLEASE NOTE: You will ONLY be able to select a roommate who has also deposited, completed an application, and has a valid meningitis form filed with Health Services. ALL STUDENTS MUST BE CURRENT KATHWARI HONORS STUDENTS.**
3. All roommates must accept all roommate requests in order to be placed together.

4 ROOM PLACEMENT

1. Individual honors students or groups will be placed in one of the Honors Housing suites in the in Centennial Hall by Housing & Residence Life.
2. Once you or your group has been placed, each member of the group must log in and select a dining (meal) plan.

HOUSING QUESTIONS? CONTACT HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE 203-837-8531 HOUSING@WCSU.EDU

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY
29th
 THURSDAY

HSOC PAINT-A-TOTE

ALL WCSU: Hosted by Honors Students of Compassion club. Bring a friend and design your own canvas tote, all materials will be provided! There will also be a Visa gift card raffle! **11:00-1:00 in the Honors House**

MARCH
5th
 TUESDAY

HONORS SELF-CARE BREAK

HONORS STUDENTS: Stop by the Honors House to take a break, make a candle, have some tea or hot chocolate and make a self-care goodie bag. **11:00-1:00 in the Honors House**

MARCH
18th
 MONDAY

SHARING OUR SCIENCE: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMUNICATING STEM

HONORS STUDENTS: Workshop with Author Brandon Brown. This session for students in STEM and STEM Communication fields will help improve the clarity, impact, and persuasive power of our writing and speaking. **3:30-4:30 in the Honors House. 20 spots available. [REGISTER HERE](#)**

MARCH
18th
 MONDAY

SCIENCE MISCOMMUNICATION: A LIGHTHEARTED DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH TO A SERIOUS PROBLEM

PUBLIC: Public talk by Author Brandon Brown. **7:00pm in White Hall 127. [REGISTER HERE](#)**

MARCH
22nd
 FRIDAY

HSOC PAINT & SIP

ALL WCSU: Join the Honors Students of Compassion club in the Honors House for a guided paint & sip session with a guest artist. Materials, food and drinks will be provided. **Time TBD in the Honors House**

MARCH
23rd
 SATURDAY

HONORS TRIP: BEHIND-THE-SCENES OF WHITE ROSE THE MUSICAL IN NYC

HONORS STUDENTS: We will arrive by bus with time to explore a bit and stop for lunch, then go to the LDK Production studios to meet with Lisa Dozier, founder of LDK. Lisa will talk with us about everything that goes into the creation of a production like White Rose from their offices, then we will walk a few minutes over to the theatre for the 2:00 matinee. **ALL SPOTS ARE FULL.**

Save the Dates

MARCH
25TH
 ALL WEEK

HSOC EGG HUNT

ALL WCSU: The week of March 25th, Honors Students of Compassion club will be hosting a campus wide egg hunt including chances to win prizes! **More info will be sent in the coming weeks via email.**

APRIL
2nd
 TUESDAY

HONORS REGISTRATION NIGHT

HONORS STUDENTS: Join us in the Honors House from 10:30pm - 12:30am for the opening of priority course registration for the fall 2024 term which opens at midnight on April 3rd. **More info will be sent in the coming weeks via email.**

APRIL
6th
 SATURDAY

HONORS VOLUNTEERS: ACCEPTED STUDENT DAY - HONORS BREAKFAST

HONORS STUDENTS: Sign-up to volunteer at Accepted Student Day as we welcome students (and their families) who have been directly admitted to the Kathwari Honors Program for Fall 2024, based on their excellent high school academic performance. The breakfast will share what WCSU and the Kathwari Honors Program can offer to them as they prepare to make a decision on which school to attend. Volunteers will get free breakfast and an honors shirt.

[SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE!](#)

APRIL
9th
 TUESDAY

HONORS VOLUNTEERS: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING CLEAN-UP FOR LOCAL SENIOR CITIZENS

HONORS STUDENTS: Join us as we work with Habitat for Humanity and head out into the community to help with spring clean-up work in the yards of local senior citizens that need assistance. **Rain date April 11th. More information to come.**

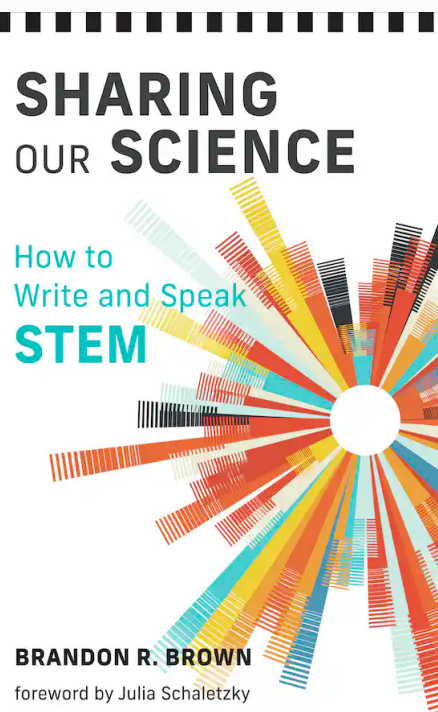
APRIL
13th
 SATURDAY

HONORS TRIP: BEHIND-THE-GALLERY VISIT TO THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM IN HARTFORD

HONORS STUDENTS: You are invited for a behind-the-gallery visit to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in Hartford. We will arrive by bus with time for lunch in the museum cafe which will be followed by a meeting with Anne Butler Rice, the Director of Learning and Engagement at the museum for a behind-the-gallery experience. Following our visit with Anne, we will have a docent-guided tour of the museum and will have time to explore the whole museum, including the Amistad Center for Art & Culture. **[REGISTER HERE](#)**



Science Miscommunication: A Lighthearted Diagnostic Approach to a Serious Problem



Public Talk by Author Brandon Brown

Monday, March 18th

7:00 pm

White Hall 127

Western Connecticut State University
181 White Street, Danbury, CT

Open to the Public - Free Admission

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Brandon R. Brown is a Professor of Physics and communications specialist at the University of San Francisco. The author of *Planck: Driven by Vision, Broken by War*, Brown has written for *Slate*, *Smithsonian*, and *Scientific American* and served as Deputy Director at the Green Science Policy Institute and a Senior Writing Coach for the Strictly Speaking Group.