



# news

APRIL | 2024

## Message from the Director

### Dear Honors Students,

Danbury Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital, a variety of other nursing facilities, AmeriCorps FEMA, Financial Leadership Development for CVS Health, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, WCSU, Binghamton University, SUNY Buffalo, Sacred Heart, Yale University, Austria, Costa Rica, Oxford University, in the K-12 classroom, on the stage in Wizard of Oz and Legally Blonde, in a physical therapy clinic....

These are just a handful of the places where this year's Kathwari Honors Program alums can be found this summer as you all head into your professional and advanced academic lives. Congratulations! You all are a testament to the value of a degree from WCSU, and we look forward to celebrating your future successes. If you are one of those students headed for grad school, send us a pennant so we can add it to the Honors House stairwell!

As we wind down toward the end of the academic year, I would also like to thank those of you who participated last week in the student-focused Design Thinking Workshop, the first step in the Honors Council's review of the program's requirements and curriculum. You'll be hearing more about this process next year, and we look forward to sharing progress with you.

Congratulations, again, to all of you for all of your hard work this year! I hope you make the most of your summer, whether that means in your new careers or in some well-deserved relaxation.

*Dr. Brian Clements*

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# Congratulations 2024 Kathwari Honors Graduates

**Assef Badr** - Theatre Arts  
**Khrystyna Barska** - Nursing  
**Emily Bauer** - Elementary Education IDM  
**Travis Benson** - Nursing  
**Amiyah Buan** - Chemistry  
**Jordan Carbone** - Justice & Law Administration  
**Raquel Chapman** - Nursing  
**Sophia Chiaia** - Biology  
**Leah Chin** - Social Work  
**Gabrielle Christofor** - Nursing  
**Alexandra Colaiacono** - Theatre Arts  
**Charlee Cordle** - Biology  
**Israel Corona Galan** - Music, Audio & Music Production  
**Stephanie Costa** - Nursing  
**Hannah Daly** - Biology  
**Melina De Osambela** - Social Work  
**Kieran Doolabh** - Cybersecurity  
**Kristen Fitzgibbons** - History & Psychology  
**Heather Fotheringham** - Social Work & Management  
**Gabrielle Franks** - Nursing  
**Alexander Friedman** - Digital Interactive Media Arts  
**Kelsey Guinipero** - Music, Classical Vocal  
**Rina Hernandez** - Secondary Ed 7-12, English  
**Julie Hoff** - Digital and Interactive Marketing  
**Lily Hutchinson** - Psychology  
**Cailyn Jobin** - Health Promotion Studies  
**Gracie Johnson** - Nursing  
**Rebecca Kessler** - Music

**Ezaan Khan** - Biology  
**Meaghan Maher** - Musical Theatre  
**Rebecca Kessler** - Music  
**Ezaan Khan** - Biology  
**Meaghan Maher** - Musical Theatre  
**Alexander Mars** - Nursing  
**Addyson Masi** - Justice & Law Administration  
**Cailin McGuire** - Music Education (K-12)  
**Minjo Mok** - Music, Audio & Music Production  
**Juliana Nascimento** - Music Education (K-12)  
**Haley Oko** - Secondary Ed 7-12, Biology  
**Franceliz Ovalles** - Health Promotion Studies  
**Ian Raistrick** - Finance  
**Christina Renzi** - Biology  
**Michelle Rochniak** - Professional Writing  
**Keyner Rojas** - Biology  
**Logan Scribner** - Marketing  
**Julian Soares** - Public Health  
**Kaira Springer** - Justice & Law Administration  
**Kayla Swing** - Nursing  
**Audie Szymanski** - Music Education (K-12)  
**Justin Vega** - Music Education (K-12)  
**Desiree Velez** - Music Education (K-12)  
**Jocelyn Villacreses** - Biology  
**Nicole Vivian** - Health Promotion Studies  
**Elizabeth Wozniak** - Nursing  
**Rebecca Wozniak** - Political Science & History  
**Brenna Wrinn** - Psychology



# Honors Student Spotlights

## SPOTLIGHT ON JENNIFER BASSET, POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHOLARS AT RISK ADVOCACY SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON D.C.



Recently, Kathwari Honors student Jennifer Basset had the opportunity to attend the Scholars at Risk Student Advocacy Seminar in Washington D.C. with Dr. Schofield’s Honors Human Rights class, with sponsorship from the Kathwari Honors Program. The Scholars at Risk seminar supports the development of student advocacy on behalf of academic freedom. On day 1, students from around the world shared their research on scholars who had been detained while working as professors, lecturing at professional workshops, or researching in the field. On day 2, participants took their cases to the Hill where they asked CT state representatives to support their work in advocacy and to sponsor the scholars.

“Because of this experience I have a better understanding of how a seemingly small event, like the suffering of an individual and the advocacy work done on their behalf, can contribute toward the calibration of world politics toward a desired outcome. It is meaningful work, the sort I hope to make a career of.”

## KATHWARI HONORS GLOBAL SUMMER SCHOLARS

Congratulations to the Kathwari Honors Students whose global summer travel plans will be sponsored by the generous funding from the Kathwari Honors Program and the Barden Travel Fund!



### JENNIFER BASSETT

Political Science  
**Oxford, England**

Oxford Consortium: New  
 Technology & Human Rights

### JULIE COOKE

Music Education  
**Salzburg, Austria**

The Patti & Allen Herbert  
 Frost School of Music

### KELSEY GUINIPERO

Music Performance  
**Salzburg, Austria**

The Patti & Allen Herbert  
 Frost School of Music



### MAIA QUIRK

Finance & Economics  
**Seoul, South Korea**

Yonsei University, International  
 Economics & Business

### ANDREA MANDUJANO

Nursing  
**San Jose, Costa Rica**  
 Community Healthcare  
 Volunteer



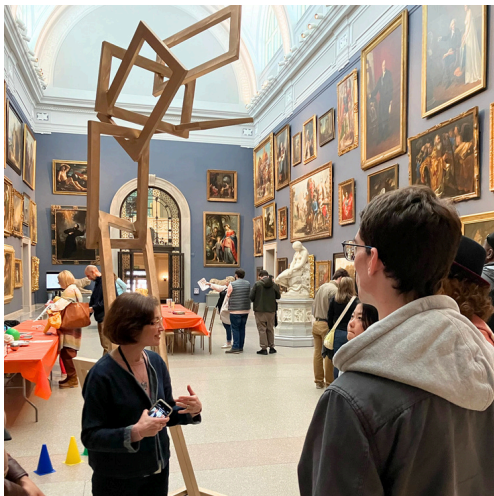
# Recent Honors Events

## KATHWARI HONORS BREAKFAST AT ACCEPTED STUDENTS' DAY



Prospective Honors students across Connecticut and beyond gathered in the Science Building earlier this month to learn more about what the Kathwari Honors Program has to offer. Many current students volunteered to answer questions and usher families to their next destinations. Along with Honors faculty members Dr. Walker and Dr. Wagener, Honors students Emily Kappel, Sarah Fayad, Amiyah Buan, and Michelle Rochniak participated in a panel where they shared their personal experiences with Honors. Prospective students walked away well-informed and energized for the rest of their day at WestConn!

## BEHIND-THE-GALLERY EXPERIENCE AT THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM IN HARTFORD



A group of KHP students, accompanied by Dr. Clements and Prof. Sabrina Marques, travelled to Hartford to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum, the oldest continuously operated museum in the United States. Anne Rice, the Wadsworth's Director of Education and Engagement, provided a custom tour of the museum that included special insight into museum operations, acquisitions, fundraising, space management, conservation, art and exhibit exchanges, exhibit design, and the amazing variety of the museum's collection, from ancient Egypt through today. Though the museum covers a huge amount of space with multiple wings and galleries, the group learned that a mere 2% of the Wadsworth's collection are actually on display at a given time.

## KATHWARI HONORS FIELD DAY!



Summer camp came back to Honors for a day! Students joined us on the lawn behind the Honors House for an early afternoon of volleyball, badminton, friendship bracelet making and lunch. A few students also used the bean bag toss equipment borrowed from the REC department. Honors Assistant Michelle took instant photos including the one featured above. It was a fun day filled with good music and energy!

## CONGRATULATIONS & FAREWELL MICHELLE AND JOCELYN

The Kathwari Honors Program and WCSU have been so fortunate to have you both as leaders in our community. Thank you for your dedication, passion and perseverance throughout your two and a half years as Honors Assistants!

**THANK YOU!**



## WELCOME TO THE KHP TEAM ANDREA AND NATALIE



**Andrea Mandujano** is a sophomore in the Nursing program and a Psychology minor. She transferred to WCSU in the Fall of 2023 and is in the Associate Kathwari Honors Program. She is excited to be a part of the Kathwari Honors Program team.



**Natalie Ali** is a sophomore biology major on the pre-med track here at WCSU. In her free time, she likes to exercise, bake, and read. She is excited to join the Kathwari Honors Program team and can't wait to see what we plan for these upcoming years.