



news

NOVEMBER | 2024

Message from the Honors Assistants

Dear Kathwari Honors Students,

With the semester and 2024 coming to a close, we want to say thank you for bringing life back to the Honors House. It's nice to see everyone finding their community within the Kathwari Honors Program. There's been so much involvement from new clubs being formed to people hosting their own events here. We can't wait to see what the future brings!

This semester we've hosted many events, and the turnout has been great! We are glad to see the engagement on these events, and we plan to host many more next semester. Remember: never be afraid to stop by, ask us questions, or give us event suggestions. We're a resource and here to help!

Warm wishes, good health, and a happy holiday season to you and your loved ones! We look forward to seeing you in the new year and sharing our many exciting events and trips planned for the spring!

*Your Honors Assistants
Andrea, Dani,
and Natatie*

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Honors Success Stories

KATHWARI HONORS STUDENT KYLIN MCMAHON STARTS WESTCONN FENCING CLUB



Kylin McMahon, a first-year Kathwari Honors Student and Music Performance major, discovered her passion for fencing during the pandemic. She excels in saber, a challenging fencing style, and has qualified for the Summer 2025 Nationals. Her dedication earned her the Ralph Sheponi Fencing Scholarship. Fencing has taught her patience and discipline, which she applies to her academics. Kylin founded WestConn's Fencing Club to share her passion and foster a supportive community for learning and personal growth.

Read the full Success Story here:

<https://www.wcsu.edu/honors/2024/11/14/kathwari-honors-student-kylin-mcmahon-starts-westconn-fencing-club/>

HANNAH ALEXANDER BLENDS INTERESTS IN MUSIC AND LAW TO PURSUE DUAL DEGREES AT WESTCONN



Hannah Alexander, a junior in the Kathwari Honors Program, discovered her love for the cello in fourth grade. She pursued music through high school and chose WestConn for its welcoming environment. Alexander is a dual major in Music Performance and Justice and Law Administration, aiming for an Ivy League law school. She is active in various clubs and teaches cello. Inspired by her tutor, she played a recovered cello during the Violins of Hope event, which took place on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, at the Saugatuck Congregational Church, 245 Post Road East in Westport.

Read the full Success Story here:

<https://www.wcsu.edu/success-stories/2024/11/13/hannah-alexander-blends-interests-in-music-and-law-to-pursue-dual-degrees-at-westconn/>

Honors Course Spotlight

HON 398 - UNDERSTANDING SUICIDE

Kathwari Honors Students in the Understanding Suicide class completed their Artistic Letter Writing Projects, where students created a letter or other artistic "mail-able." These were based on the suicide prevention "Caring Letters Project" that they learned about in class. These letters will be sent to a nearby hospital and distributed to patients with a suicidal history or current ideation.



Honors Course Spotlight

HON 398 - ADVANCED ETHICS & COMPASSION: GUEST SPEAKER DR. DAVID KITTAY



Guest speaker Dr. David Kittay, Director and Professor of Philosophy at the Harlem Clemente Course for the Humanities, spoke to Kathwari Honors Students in the Advanced Ethics & Compassion course. His talk explored how the advancements of technology may impact compassion and ethics in the future.

HON 398 - NEW YORK CITY AS TEXT

On 11/2, students of New York City as Text went on another field trip, this time to Washington Square Park and the Grey Gallery in Greenwich Village, the Museum of the City of New York, and Central Park. Students also had the opportunity to visit the last fire watchtower in New York City, in Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem.



ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM WORKSHOP



Dr. Mitch Wagener hosted a workshop with Kathwari Honors Students about the importance of advocacy and activism. He asked students what they're passionate about and advised students about the steps they can take towards advocating in their own lives. Dr. Wagener shared his tips for analyzing risk assessment when fighting for a passion. The group participated in meaningful discussions of where to start in advocacy at the local level and how to involve the community.

November Snapshot

WCSU'S PRODUCTION OF ANGELS IN AMERICA PART TWO: PERESTROIKA

Congratulations to our Kathwari Honors Students on their magnificent performances in WCSU's production of Angels in America Part Two: Perestroika, Tony Kushner's epic tale exploring relationships, friendships, and loss as the AIDS pandemic worsens in 1980's New York. The shows took place from November 1st-10th.



Zola Kneeland



Logan Perrault



Amy Mandelbaum



Zachary Spreng



LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE (LEC) CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to the WestConn men's soccer team for their incredible Little East Conference Championship win! Go wolves! A special congratulations to our Kathwari Honors students on the team!



Nikolas Chevres
Matthew Dupont
Marlon Orellana-Delgado
Justin Rivest
Ryan Stillman



November Snapshot

HONORS REGISTRATION NIGHT

Honors Registration Night was a huge success! It was our largest event of the semester, with 36 students in attendance. Everyone enjoyed pizza and refreshments while engaging in lively conversations with one another.

The self-care activities were also a hit, with students participating in face masks, manicures, video games and more! We were thrilled to see such a great turnout and were happy to help all the students. We wish all the Honors students a great spring semester!



HONORS FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION

On 11/20, Kathwari Honors Students spent the day connecting and practicing gratitude. First, Honors students took a bread-making workshop with Professor Pano Koukopoulos in the Honors House. Some students stayed after the workshop to help Pano and Caitlin prepare the Friends-giving meal! Together, everyone ate delicious food, wrote thank-you notes, and crafted no-sew fleece blankets for pets in need!

We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving Break next week!



