



news

FEBRUARY | 2025

Message from the Director

Dear Kathwari Honors Students,

This month's newsletter is a testament to the cornucopia of opportunities you have for a rich Honors experience. From leadership through horsemanship training to financially supported international travel, from National Book Award-winning author appearances to masterclasses with a Hamilton Broadway cast member, from film screenings and panel discussions with visiting scholars and our excellent WestConn faculty, staff, and students to opportunities to take rewarding and challenging courses from our newly designated Honors Faculty you'd never get to take anywhere else, it is our mission to open doors for your exploration, inquiry, and joy. Discovery awaits! Caitlin, the Honors Assistants, and I will be here holding the door open for you.

We hope to see you at some of the rest of the events this semester!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clements

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Honors Success Story

KATHWARI HONORS STUDENT JULIE COOKE STUDIES IN AUSTRIA



Julie Cooke, a senior Music Education major and Kathwari Honors Student, spent the summer in Salzburg, Austria, taking masterclasses in singing with world-class vocalists. She visited iconic places like Mozart's Birthplace and the Mirabell Palace, while also practicing her German. Julie thrived in this new cultural environment, enhancing her skills as a musician and educator. Supported by the Kathwari Honors Program, she learned valuable teaching methods and earned her A1 German Language certificate.

Read the full Success Story here:

<https://www.wcsu.edu/honors/2025/02/18/kathwari-honors-student-julie-cooke-studies-in-austria/>

Faculty Spotlight

INTRODUCING HONORS FACULTY

The Kathwari Honors Program is delighted to welcome its first cohort of Honors Faculty. These Honors Faculty are full-time faculty members who will teach one Honors course per year for a period of four years; they include faculty members you've come to know, like Dr. Walker, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Duffy, Dr. Lindenauer, and Dr. Daria, along with faculty members new(-ish) to the program, like Dr. Lin, Dr. Rosenthal, Professor Dwyer, and Dr. Rocca. check it out here: <https://www.wcsu.edu/honors/faculty/>



Kathwari Spring Seminars

KATHWARI HONORS LAUNCHES NEW SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

The Kathwari Honors Program launched its Spring Seminars series with two thought-provoking events.

On February 8th, the Kathwari Spring Seminars series kicked off with a showing of “Do The Right Thing,” including a panel discussion after the film hosted by Dr. Brian Clements. A panel including WestConn professors Qur-an Webb and Carina Bandhauer, administrator Joshua Sumrell, and student leader Gabriela Torres discussed the film and the social challenges people still face 35 years after the release of Spike Lee’s classic.

On February 10, the Kathwari Spring Seminars hosted a discussion of Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis from “Do the Right Thing,” as well as their legacies in American Black Theatre, American film, and civil rights. This discussion featured Dr. Khalid Long from Howard University, along with Dr. Donald Gagnon of the WCSU Department of Theatre Arts.

The series continues on **February 24 at 3:30 PM**, where Dr. Haneef Nelson of the WCSU Department of Music will discuss **“Jazz, Hip-hop, and Do the Right Thing”** on Midtown Campus, Science Building, Room 125

On **March 3 at 3:30 PM**, four WCSU professors will discuss contemporary ethical quandaries from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in **“What’s Right Right Now?”** with Dr. Anna Malavisi (History, Philosophy, and World Perspectives), Dr. Robert Whittemore (Social Sciences), Dr. Mitch Wagener (Biology), and Dr. Averell Manes (Emeritx, Social Sciences). Midtown Campus, Science Building Room 125

The final seminar will take place on **March 31 at 7:30 PM**, where National Book Award-winning poet Martín Espada will give the debut reading from his new book of poems, *Jailbreak of Sparrows*. A book signing will follow. Westside Campus President’s Reception Room

For further information, contact Dr. Brian Clements, Director of the Kathwari Honors Program at WCSU, at 203-837-9501 or clements@wcsu.edu.

20 KATHWARI 25 SPRING SEMESTERS



February Snapshot

VALENTINE'S DAY HONORS CRAFT EVENT



On Thursday, February 13th, the Kathwari Honors Program had their first of many events this spring! Students gathered in the Kathwari Honors House to make no-sew heart pillows and colorful tissue paper carnations. Some students opted to make bracelets or paint tote bags. Whether students' creations were Valentine's Day themed or not, everyone had a blast crafting and snacking together!



KATHWARI HONORS STUDENTS ATTEND HAMILTON MASTERCLASS

This month, the Kathwari Honors Program supported 11 Honors Students in attending a Masterclass with Hamilton cast member, Jennifer Gellar presented by the Newtown Stage Company. The adult class took place on February 17th from 2:30-4:00 PM at the Academy of Dance Arts, 355 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT.

From the Newtown Stage Company: "We are thrilled to bring current Hamilton cast member, Jennifer Gellar to Newtown Stage Company for a Hamilton masterclass! Jennifer started her Hamilton journey as the original "Bullet" in the National Tour before moving to the Broadway company in 2021. We are so excited for Jennifer to teach us choreography from the show and answer our questions about working in the hottest show on Broadway!"



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY
24th
MONDAY

KATHWARI SPRING SEMINAR “JAZZ, HIP-HOP, AND DO THE RIGHT THING”

EVERYONE: Join us in welcoming Dr. Haneef Nelson of the WCSU Department of Music as he discusses “Jazz, Hip-hop, and Do the Right Thing.”

When: Monday, February 24th at 3:30 PM

Where: Midtown Campus, Science Building, Room 125.



FEBRUARY
26th
WEDNESDAY

HONORS OPEN HOUSE

WCSU STAFF, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS: Are you a faculty member interested in learning more about becoming Honors Faculty? Are you a student interested in learning more about becoming an Honors Student? Are you a staff member, current Honors Student, or professor who hasn't been in the Honors House yet (or in a while)? Come visit us!

When: Wednesday, February 26th at 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Kathwari Honors House

MARCH 1st
SATURDAY

LEADERSHIP THROUGH HORSEMANSHIP

HONORS STUDENTS: This experience working with horses will help you utilize the tools you already have within you to facilitate a sense of well-being, to be mindful and present, and authentically connect with yourself and the world around you when everything feels chaotic.

The application deadline has passed. Submit a late application to be added to the waitlist.

When: Saturday, March 1st at 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: Pegasus, 310 Peach Lake Road, Brewster, NY

MARCH 3rd
MONDAY

KATHWARI SPRING SEMINAR “WHAT'S RIGHT RIGHT NOW”

EVERYONE: Join us in welcoming Dr. Averell Manes, Dr. Anna Malavisi, Dr. Mitch Wagener, and Dr. Robert Whittemore in discussing contemporary ethical quandaries from various disciplines.

When: Monday, March 3rd at 3:30 PM

Where: Midtown Campus Science Building Room 125



Save the Date

MARCH 11th
TUESDAY

HONORS SELF CARE

HONORS STUDENTS: Need to destress? Don't worry, Honors has your back! Join us for our self-care event, where we'll have face masks, nail care, coloring, painting, and more. Taking care of yourself is important and this event is all about recharging yourself and relaxing. You don't want to miss out!

When: Tuesday, March 11th from 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Where: Kathwari Honors House Conference Room.

MARCH 29th
SATURDAY

HONORS SPRING CLEAN UP

HONORS STUDENTS: Participate in the Honors Spring Clean-Up with Habitat for Humanity. Join a group of Honors students in volunteering with Housatonic Habitat for Humanity as we help local senior citizens with their spring property clean-up. More details to come.

When: TENTATIVE - March 29th

Where: To be confirmed

MARCH 31st
MONDAY

KATHWARI SPRING SEMINAR JAILBREAK OF SPARROWS

EVERYONE: Join us in welcoming essayist, poet, translator, editor, and attorney Martín Espada for a reading and book signing for his latest book *Jailbreak of Sparrows*.

When: Monday, March 31st at 7:00 PM

Where: Westside Campus President's Reception Room



APRIL 14th
MONDAY

HONORS FIELD DAY

HONORS STUDENTS: Don't miss out on our field day event happening this spring! We will have a variety of sports activities, fun games, a tie-dye station and food. Whether you're up for some friendly competition with your fellow Honors students or just looking to spend some time outdoors, there is something for everyone. We hope to see you all there!

When: Monday, April 14th from 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Where: Field outside Kathwari Honors House

Save the Date

APRIL 25th
FRIDAY

HONORS GAME AND MOVIE NIGHT

HONORS STUDENTS: Dust off your consoles and electronics and bring them to Honors Game and Movie Night! Enjoy a Mario Kart Tournament, eat some snacks, and end the night by watching movies.

When: TO BE CONFIRMED - Friday, April 25th at 6:00 PM

Where: Kathwari Honors House Lyceum

MAY 10th
SATURDAY

KATHWARI HONORS CONVOCATION CEREMONY

GRADUATING HONORS STUDENTS: Save the date: Kathwari Honors Convocation Ceremony. Formal invitations and RSVP to follow.

When: Saturday, May 10th at 11:00 AM

Where: Westside Campus Center Ballroom

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Have you, an Honors student you know, or an Honors professor you've studied with recently accomplished something super cool, finished a project, won an award, been awarded a scholarship or fellowship, presented something, been elected to a leadership position, been accepted to a graduate program, landed an internship, completed volunteer work, got a new job, have a cool hobby, have a special life story, or anything else you'd like to share? We want to hear about it and share Honors Community members stories and accomplishments in our newsletters, Instagram and campus wide :)

Our Honors community is full of superstars! We want to share how proud we are!

SHARE YOUR STORY HERE: [HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/ZH5R9RJDVV](https://forms.office.com/R/ZH5R9RJDVV)

