



news

MARCH | 2025

Message from the Assistant Director

Dear Kathwari Honors Students,

It's that time of the semester when things start to speed up, and it can feel like there's a lot to juggle all at once. Just a quick reminder: **you're doing an amazing job.** Whether you're feeling on top of everything or just taking it day by day, your effort and persistence matter. Keep going—you're making progress, even if it doesn't always feel that way.

We're looking forward to this year's Honors Convocation Ceremony, where **we'll celebrate 66 seniors** who have completed the requirements of the Kathwari Honors Program. It's a remarkable milestone, and we're excited to recognize their accomplishments.

A quick reminder that priority registration opens at midnight on April 2nd. If you have questions about upcoming Honors courses or how they fit into your schedule, please feel free to email Dr. Clements (clements@wcsu.edu) for help.

I'll close with a favorite quote that speaks to this season of growth:

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

- Maya Angelou

Caitlin Kennedy

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Honors Success Stories

KATHWARI HONORS STUDENTS ATTEND HAMILTON MASTERCLASS



Last month, the Kathwari Honors Program supported 11 Honors Students in attending a Masterclass with Hamilton cast member Jennifer Gellar. The class was presented by the Newtown Stage Company at the Academy of Dance Arts in Brookfield, CT.

Students not only learned combinations from the official Broadway production but also the combinations used for auditions, preparing students for the real deal in the future. Sophomore Music Education student Sarah Seo and first-year Theatre Arts student Bryan Reimertz share their experiences with us.

Read the full story here:

<https://www.wcsu.edu/honors/2025/03/14/kathwari-honors-students-attend-hamilton-masterclass/>



KATHWARI HONORS STUDENTS ENHANCE THEIR SOFT SKILLS IN THE LEADERSHIP THROUGH HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM



The Kathwari Honors Program collaborated with Pegasus Therapeutic Riding to launch the Leadership through Horsemanship Program on March 1st. Students engaged in activities like brushing and leading horses, which emphasized communication, trust, and mindfulness. The program offered insights on leadership by learning from horses' responses to human body language and energy.

Learn more about the program and what our Honors Students had to say:

<https://www.wcsu.edu/honors/2025/03/17/kathwari-honors-students-enhance-their-soft-skills-in-the-leadership-through-horsemanship-program/>



Faculty Spotlight



KATHWARI HONORS DIRECTOR NAMED NEWEST CSU PROFESSOR

On March 11, the Office of Academic Affairs office notified the WestConn community of Dr. Brian Clements's selection as the newest CSU Professor by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system and WestConn, a distinguished professorship. Applications are reviewed and candidates are selected by the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the Provost, President, and, ultimately, the CSU Board of Regents.

JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING DR. CLEMENTS ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT!



March Snapshot



KATHWARI HONORS SPRING SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES



On February 24, Dr. Haneef Nelson of the WCSU Department of Music discussed "Jazz, Hiphop, and Do the Right Thing." On March 3, WCSU professors Dr. Anna Malavisi (History, Philosophy, and World Perspectives), Dr. Robert Whittemore (Social Sciences), Dr. Mitch Wagener (Biology), and Dr. Averell Manes (Emeritx, Social Sciences), discussed contemporary ethical quandaries from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in "What's Right Right Now?" **The final seminar will take place on March 31 at 7:00 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 Classroom Building- President's Reception Room.**

KATHWARI GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP INFO-SESSIONS

On March 26 & 27th, the School of Graduate, International and Career Studies (SGICS) held info-sessions for current Kathwari Honors students about the new Kathwari Graduate Fellowships (KGF).

Any Honors students interested in learning more about the Kathwari Graduate Fellowship is encouraged to email Dr. Diane BenBella (benbellad@wcsu.edu), who coordinates the Kathwari Graduate Fellowships.

Kathwari Graduate Fellowship Highlights:

- \$2,000 stipend per semester-up to 4 semesters
- Experiential learning with teaching, research or administrative mentorship
- Applicable with any WCSU graduate program
- Commit 7 hours per week to the fellowship
- 75% of fellowships are earmarked for Kathwari Honors Program graduates
- **Fall 2025 Application Deadline: April 21st, 2025**

[KATHWARI GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP WEBSITE](#)

March Snapshot

HONORS SELF CARE EVENT

On March 11, Kathwari Honors Students gathered in the Honors House Conference Room for their Self-Care Event! In the spirit of unwinding, Honors Students used face masks, coloring books, took care of their nails, made slime, and concocted DIY essential oil rollerballs and sprays. Students took charge in recharging before midterms!



WCSU'S PRODUCTION OF SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE:

Congratulations to our Kathwari Honors Students on their magnificent performances in WCSU's production of Sunday in the Park with George, a musical that merges past and present into beautiful, poignant truths about life, love, and the art of creation, directed by Justin P. Cowan. The shows took place from February 21-March 2.



Sophie Belkin



Paul Carlantone



Zola Kneeland



Amy Mandelbaum



Sebastian Martelle



Logan Perrault



Dylan Reynes



Zachary Spreng



Mireya Trelles



Isabella Vanore

Upcoming Events

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 12th
SATURDAY

VOLUNTEER AT ACCEPTED STUDENTS DAY - HONORS BREAKFAST

HONORS STUDENTS: Volunteer at the Honors Breakfast at Accepted Students Day which will host students who have been directly admitted to the Kathwari Honors Program for Fall 2025, based on their excellent high school academic performance. They will be joined by their families to learn more about what WestConn and the Kathwari Honors Program can offer as they prepare to make a decision on which college/university to attend.

When: Saturday, April 12th from 8:30am to 2:00pm

Where: Science Building

SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER AT THE LINK IN YOUR EMAIL

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

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. **Organized by Joseph Iken.**

When: Friday, April 25th at 6:00 PM

Where: Kathwari Honors House Lyceum

Upcoming Events

APRIL 28th
MONDAY

HONORS TRIP: MASTERCLASS WITH PAUL BOGAEV @ FAIRFIELD THEATRE COMPANY

HONORS STUDENTS: Join Paul Bogaev, the Grammy and Emmy-winning music director behind Broadway and Hollywood's most celebrated productions. In this Masterclass, through live vocal demonstration and conversation, he'll share his approach to coaching performers, shaping iconic scores, and how the power of music helped him overcome life's greatest challenges. 30 spots available. There's also a SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR 2 STUDENTS TO JOIN ONSTAGE!

When: Monday, April 28th, 5:00pm - Bus departs the Honors House

Where: Fairfield Theatre Company (FTC), 70 Sanford Street, Fairfield, CT

MAY 10th
SATURDAY

KATHWARI HONORS CONVOCATION CEREMONY

GRADUATING HONORS STUDENTS: Kathwari Honors Convocation Ceremony. RSVP Required by April 1st! RSVP link in email invitation.

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)

