



# The Squirrel Squire

Official Press of the Westfield State  
University Honors Program

Volume 17, Issue 1

2025/2026 Edition

## Commonwealth Honors Program Honors Orientation



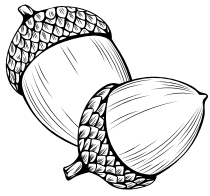
Westfield State Honors Students Group Photo

Starting the year off strong! The Honors Program welcomed new First-Year Honors students to campus early to participate in several projects in the community as part of Honors Orientation. Students worked on several projects over a weekend including planting trees, organizing food pantries, cleaning up garden beds, and even helping at an animal sanctuary. Students learned a lot about what it means to be an Honors student, including the values and pillars the program is built on. Continue to page 3 to learn more about all the incredible work that happened on behalf of Honors Orientation!

Thank you to all of the Honors Program student leaders, members of the administrative team, and volunteers for your help with the Honors Orientation!



Continued on p. 3



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**The Squirrel Squire Student Interns:**  
 Micah Scott, Lia Steskla, Sicilia Campbell

**Thank you to all Student, Staff, and Faculty  
 Contributors!**

*The Honors Program would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2025/2026 edition of The Squirrel Squire newsletter. The edition highlights Honors Program accomplishments and some of the amazing things Honors students are doing to build a tight community at Westfield State University.*

**Follow us on Social Media**





# Honors Orientation

Continued from p. 1

***New Honors students attended a weekend-long orientation to learn more about the Honors Program, including its requirements and values.***



The Class of 2029 First-year Honors students were welcomed to campus early to participate in the Honors Orientation and Early Move-In. To start their orientation, students were moved into the new First-year Honors Living Learning Community (LLC), which is located on the fourth floor of Davis Hall. This First-year class and their champions were greeted and assisted by Honors Program Leadership and Upperclassmen upon their arrival on campus. At the conclusion of move-in, our new First-year Honors students were invited to attend a pizza dinner organized by the Honors Program in the Davis Hall Common area to welcome them to Westfield State. Following dinner, Honors Program student leaders led different events to offer more opportunities for students to get to know their peers. Some students opted to participate in "Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes," while others crafted vision boards of their goals for their first year at Westfield State!

On the second day, we all participated in service projects to support local organizations in our community. Students helped organize the food pantry and planted trees at Common Goods, cleaned up the garden beds along the Westfield River Walk, organized materials for Girls on the Run, helped with plants at Grandmother's Garden, supported with a variety of tasks for the UCC Second Congregational church, and cleaned up the living areas of animals at the Whip City Animal Sanctuary.



After having lunch together, students then gathered for Honors Orientation, where they learned about the Honors Program Pillars, requirements and expectations of the program, and heard from Honors student leaders about how to make the most of the Honors experience! It was a great weekend of meeting new friends and getting a start to the year!

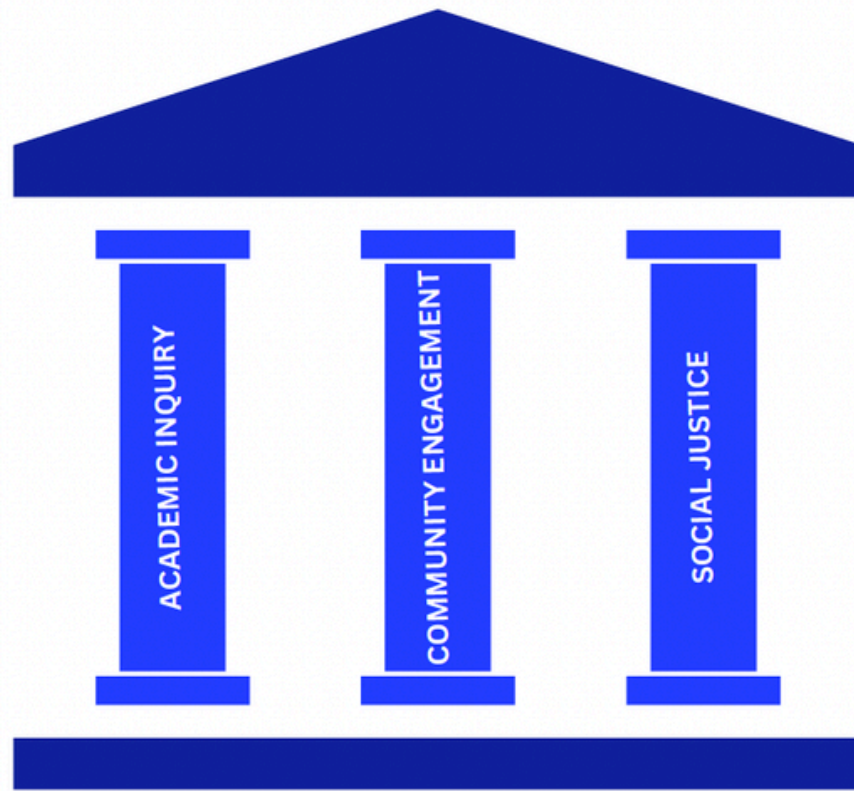


## **Thank you to our Community Partners!**

- **Common Goods Food Pantry**
- **Westfield River Walk**
- **Girls on the Run of Western MA**
- **Grandmother's Garden**
- **UCC Second Congregational Church**



# The Foundation of Honors



We strive for academic excellence, promote intellectual curiosity, and empower students to become lifelong learners.

We promote positive change in our communities, embrace collaboration, and leave an impact through service.

We value diversity in all its forms and create a welcoming community that promotes equity and social justice.

In this edition of the Squirrel Squire News Letter, it is our goal to showcase what it means to be an Honors student. By showcasing the vast backgrounds and talents of our program's students we hope to highlight Honors students ability to excel not only in the classroom but in leadership, the workforce, the arts, athletics, and in the community. Being in the Honors program is more than a GPA, it is a commitment to the program's core values. Honors is not a mold that every student must try to fit into, but rather a network of hard-working, driven individuals coming together to better their community and strive for excellence in several disciplines. We hope that in highlighting all of the incredible accomplishments by our students, we can also highlight the diversity of our student body and showcase some of the ways our students embody the pillars our program stands on.



# Honors Program Leaders



**Dr. Hillary Sackett-Taylor**  
**Honors Program Director**

Dr. Hillary Sackett-Taylor has served in the leadership of the Commonwealth Honors Program since 2018 and as Director since 2022, with a brief sabbatical to serve as Assistant Provost in Spring and Fall 2025. In this role, she has led significant programmatic development, including the creation of new curriculum, study abroad opportunities, and community-engaged learning initiatives that emphasize a holistic honors experience grounded in intellectual curiosity, leadership, and social justice. She also contributes to honors education at the regional and state levels, serving as Vice President of the Northeast Regional Honors Council (2024–2025) and as the State University representative on the executive board of the Commonwealth Honors Council (2026–2027).

Dr. Kuhnly is a Professor in the Nursing department and the current Associate Director of the Honors Program. She has served on the honors advisory council since 2018 and has taught in the honors program since then, including advising on many commonwealth honors projects. She collaboratively developed an end-of-life course using an interprofessional and multicultural perspectives. She has conducted research on perinatal health topics, empathy, nursing education including international experiences and promotion of health equity and advocacy, and simulation pedagogy such as implementing an escape room and active learning strategies. She has partnered with community health clinics studying how to impact stigma toward people who use drugs. She organizes local events in honor of maternal health awareness day, activating student service projects toward those efforts. She enjoys leading student experiences in developing countries such as S. Africa and Guatemala and most recently inner-city areas of Puerto Rico. She works clinically as a neonatal nurse practitioner and lactation consultant to maintain clinical competence.



**Dr. Joan Kuhnly**  
**Assistant Director**



**Dr. Kim Berman**  
**Student Intern**  
**Programing Coordinator**

Kim Berman, Ph.D., joined the faculty of the Biology Department at WSU in 2016, teaching courses in Microbiology, General Biology, and Research Experience in Advanced Microbiology. Dr. Berman joined the Honors Team in the spring of 2026, stepping into the role of Student Intern and Programming Coordinator (SIPC). As intern coordinator, her focus is overseeing and supporting the honors interns in their various internship roles as well as supporting Student Honors Association (SHA). She oversaw the creation of the first year-long Squirrel Squire magazine with her co-editors, Lia Stesla and Sicilia Campbell. Together with her biology student and community service intern, Naomi Brito, they held a virtual blood drive, Earth Day Scavenger Hunt, and feminine product drive for a local women's shelter. All of this work was documented by the social media coordinator, Alyssa Bukowski. Dr. Berman earned her B.S. in biology from Framingham State University. She completed graduate school at UMASS Chan Medical School where she earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology. She is also the advisor for the WSU chapter of Tribeta, the National Biology Honor Society.



# Honors Program Leaders

Dr. Juliet Lee has been a member of the Honors Advisory Committee since 2022 and served as the Honors Interim Director during the Fall 2025 semester. Through her work with the Honors Program, she built connections with Honors faculty and students through research, service, and community engagement. Dr. Lee is a Professor in the Education Department



**Dr. Juliet Lee**  
**Honors Program**  
**Director Spring & Fall 2025**

## Graduate Assistant

### Mental Health Support - MSW Candidate



**Sarah Nabulsi**  
**Graduate Assistant**

Sarah Nabulsi (she/her) is the Graduate Assistant for WSU's Honors Program and will earn her MSW in May 2026. She is completing a clinical internship in community outpatient behavioral healthcare at the Center for Human Development in Greenfield, MA. Her work is rooted in relational practice and social awareness, with an understanding that personal well-being is always intertwined with cultural expectations, systems of power, and community context.

In peer support spaces, she draws from her formal education as well as her experience with somatic movement, mindfulness meditation, and creative writing — practices that emphasize slowing down, tending carefully, and staying connected to the body through the world around us. She hopes to offer a grounded, thoughtful container for conversations about the personal and societal intersections of sustainability, self-care, and achievement.



**WHO'S TIRED?**  
**HONORS EDITION**  
*Wellness & Support  
for Honors Students*

Are you:  
Overwhelmed?  
Burned out?  
Consistently overachieving  
and still down on yourself?

Fridays at 3pm  
starting March 6<sup>th</sup>  
in the Honors Center  
Parenzo 041

Join a friendly group that  
normalizes stress, offers  
peer support and builds  
skills for balance and self  
care

# Honors Program Student Leaders

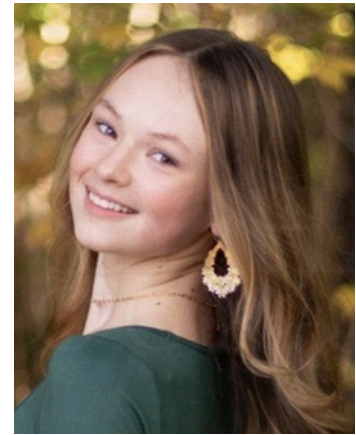
## Our Fall 2025 Interns



**Ashley Chacho**  
**Social Media**

Last fall semester I served as the social media intern for the Honors Program! Where I gained hands-on experience in content creation and digital branding. Being an intern for the Honors Program last fall gave me hands-on experience in content creation and digital branding. I worked alongside Juliet Lee to help rebrand the program's social media presence. I created "Day in the Life" videos and managed weekly Instagram stories to keep students informed about office hours and events. Being in this role also gave me the opportunity to attend NRHC as the media representative! Overall, the experience strengthened my skills while helping me feel more connected to the Honors community and the people in it!

During the 2025 fall semester, I had the privilege of working with first year honors students, sitting in their Honors Discovery Seminar guiding them through their first semester of their first year. I was given the opportunity to create meaningful connections with students, as the adapted to college life. Throughout the semester I became a resource for these first-year students, facilitating a lesson on time management, and supporting questions through office hours. Overall, peer mentoring was an incredibly fulfilling experience.



**Julia Cincotta**  
**Community Service**



**Micah Scott**  
**Squirrel Squire Editor**

Hello, I am Micah Scott! I am a Junior Psychology major with a concentration in Clinical Psychology and a double minor in Ethnic Studies and English. In addition to being the Squirrel Squire intern in the Fall, I was also a peer mentor for Professor Ola. Alongside being a member of the Honors Program, I am also a member of the Westfield State Honors Society for Psychology (Psi Chi) and the Westfield State Varsity Track and Field team. I also work on campus as an Admissions Ambassador, Orientation Leader, Peer Tutor, Social Media/Marketing Intern, and as a Note Taker for the Banacos Center.



# Honors Program Student Leaders

## Our Spring 2026 Interns



**Naomi Brito**  
**Community Service**

Hello, I am Naomi Brito! I am currently a senior studying biology with a minor in chemistry; I have always had a deep interest for science. I hope to pursue a career in microbiology and immunology post-graduation. My interest for this internship comes from passion for community service which I have developed through holding leadership positions on campus, I would love to give back to this beautiful community in my last semester here!

Hi my name is Alyssa and I am currently a senior studying nursing and am also part of the honors program! I have always loved being a caretaker and helping others and the nursing program here has helped me further my experience and enjoy it even more! Being an intern for the honors program has been rewarding, and i love being able to give back ,given how much the honors program has done for me during my college expereince.



**Alyssa Bukowski**  
**Social Media**

My name is Sicilia Campbell, a sophomore studying English with a writing concentration and an active honors student. I have served many roles in honors from Community service coordinator, squirrel squire student editor, even freshman academic advisor. This year I am assisting Lia as co-editor for the fall/spring 25-26 edition of the squirrel squire. In my free time you can find me studying or chilling in the honors center.



**Sicilia Campbell**  
**Academic Advisor 2025**  
**Squirrel Squire Co-Editor**  
**2026**

Hi, my name is Lia and I am a student of the English honors program! Currently I'm a junior that's in a lot of fun clubs like being member of the Chess Club, Historian for SHA, Founder and president of the Yarn Club. Lean about fiber crafts like knitting, crochet, and more with the Yarn Club. If crafting isn't for you that okay this campus has so many clubs you're bound to find your comminity.



**Lia Steskla**  
**Squirrel Squire Co-Editor**



# Honors Program Advisory Groups



## Honors Advisory Committee

**Honors Leadership Team:** **Hillary Sackett-Taylor**, Honors Program Director, Economics; **Joan Kuhnly**, Honors Program Assistant Director, Education; **Gretchen Konrad**, Honors Program Administrative Assistant. **Library:** **Anna Boutin Cooper**, Librarian. **College of Professional Studies:** **Anthony (Tony) Furnelli**, Management and Marketing; **Leah Hanlon**, Management and Marketing, **Brian Selgrade**, Sports Medicine and Human Performance/Movement Science, **Ola Smialek**, Geography, Planning, & Sustainability, **Kim Berman**, Biology, **Tara Vrooman**, Biology. **College of Arts and Sciences:** **Venessa Diana**, English, **Chris Gullen**, Communications, **Hugh Jo**, Political Science, **Erica Kelliher**, History and Philosophy, **Lili Lei**, Environmental Science, **Alex Moore**, Mathematics, **Subramanian (Vaithee) Vaitheeswaran**, Chemical and Physical Sciences, **Mao-Lun Weng**, Biology. **Administration and Student Support Services:** **Celeste Donovan**, TRIO, **Brian Jennings**, Associate Provost For Academic Affairs, **Matthew Shand**, Banacos Center. **Honors Students:** **Ally Griswold**, **Abigail Tiburcio**, **Owen Mathieu**.



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## Student Honors Association



**SHA E-Board:** **Sicilia Campbell**, President; **Ally Griswold**, Vice President; **Owen Mathieu**, Treasurer; **Samantha Brady**, Secretary; **Lia Steskla**, Historian; **Autumn Jones**, **Lily Dufresne**, Commuter Rep.



# The Squirrel Squire

## Dedication

**Gretchen Konrad**



In honor of her last semester working at Westfield State, we wanted to take this time dedicate this Squirrel Squire to Gretchen Konrad, Administrative Assistant for the Honors Program, and congratulate her on her retirement. We are all so incredibly grateful for your contributions and dedication to this institution. Please read these messages from Westfield State students, alumni, co-workers, and most importantly, friends wishing you well as you step into this next chapter. Thank you for everything Gretchen and we hope you enjoy your retirement! You leave behind what feels like an impossible hole to fill, but we take comfort in knowing that your work has forever left an impact here at Westfield State!

“Although the leadership of the Honors Program at Westfield State University has changed over the years, Gretchen has been at the center of all Honors activities from the foundational period with Professors Ricki Kantrowitz and Glen Brewster,” says Alumni and Professor Michael Brill. “She has always gone above and beyond. During my time at Westfield State as a student, Gretchen always offered a helping hand and took a personal interest in both the success and lives of the program's students. Although I graduated many years ago, I consider myself fortunate to have Gretchen as a friend since then as well.”

“I started working with Gretchen on the Honors Program team in 2011, and have always valued her dedication, wisdom, wit, and general good sense,” says Professor Glen Brewster. “Though I will miss her here at WSU terribly, may she have a long and festive retirement!”

“Gretchen is the heart of the Honors Program,” says Professor Juliet Lee. “She not only support students, faculty, and staff across campus for everything Honors Program related, but she brings her heart, empathy, and person hood to her work and makes everyone feel supported and cared for. It has been a privilege to work with and learn from Gretchen and though her presence will be missed, I am also excited for this new chapter in her life. Thank you, Gretchen, for your service and support, and congratulations on this milestone!”

“Gretchen has truly been the glue that holds the Honors Program together, and her dedication and care have made all the difference for students and faculty alike,” says Professor Nick Morrison. “The impact of Gretchen’s dedication and behind-the-scenes service will be felt for years to come. We are so grateful for her commitment and wish her all the very best as she begins this next chapter in retirement!”



# The Squirrel Squire



## Dedication



### Gretchen Konrad

“Gretchen never fails to brighten my day,” says student Cady Spelman. “At her desk, she is always ready to engage in a friendly chat or provide valuable guidance. She cares deeply about the Honors Program and its students, as evidenced by the effort she puts into her work every day. My journey here at Westfield has been enriched through the laughs and good times we have shared. Gretchen has been such an asset to the honors program and the campus community as a whole. She has undoubtedly left a lasting mark on every student who has had the joy of working with her”

“In my 13 years in Honors Program administration alongside Gretchen Konrad, I was blessed to watch her work tirelessly to support students in their academic pursuits, to lend an ear when students and colleagues needed to talk, to volunteer lots of time outside of work hours --whether hosting fun social events in our old Honors Program home Mod Hall or getting student schedules sorted out late into the night. Gretchen always reminded me that the work was all about making a positive impact on students' lives. Gretchen, thank you for being a role model to me and, most importantly, a dear friend. Congratulations on your retirement! We are going to miss you here at WSU!”



# Stepping into the Role

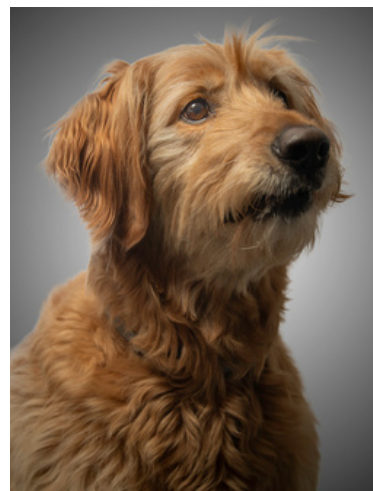
## Our New Administrative Assistant



### Rachel Gelina

Rachel Gelina is a dedicated public service professional with a strong background in higher education, student success, and community engagement. A proud Westfield, Massachusetts native, Rachel earned her Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a minor in Business Management from Westfield State University in 2020 and went on to complete her Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Criminal Justice Administration, graduating with a 4.0 GPA in December 2025.

Rachel currently serves as an Administrative Assistant II for the Honors Program at Westfield State University, where she supports recruitment, programming, and student engagement initiatives. She previously worked in the university's Career Center as a Graduate Assistant and Student Success Liaison, where she advised students on career development, reviewed over 150 resumes and cover letters, and helped coordinate large-scale career fairs connecting hundreds of students with employers.



Beyond her professional role, Rachel is actively engaged in her community. She contributes to nonprofit initiatives, supports youth development as a lacrosse coach, and assists with outreach and storytelling for organizations such as Western Mass Wheelers. A former NCAA Division III lacrosse player and three-time conference champion, she brings teamwork, leadership, and a passion for service to everything she does. Outside of work, she enjoys staying active, following Boston sports, and spending time with her goldendoodle, Waylon, who is also an emotional support animal.





# Fall 2025 Honors Seminars



## Our Fall 2025 Honors Classes

### Digital Marketing: Problems and Progress

In fall 2025, I taught Digital Marketing: Problems and Progress in the honors program for the second time. Students engaged with two excellent guest speakers on career development, content creation, and digital strategies in the workplace. Through research posters and in-class presentations, they explored and debated digital marketing as it relates to health and wellness, privacy, organizations, geopolitics, and artificial intelligence. The most rewarding aspect of the course was watching students from different majors share unique perspectives with their peers.



**Professor Anthony Furnelli**

### Data Analysis in Nutrition

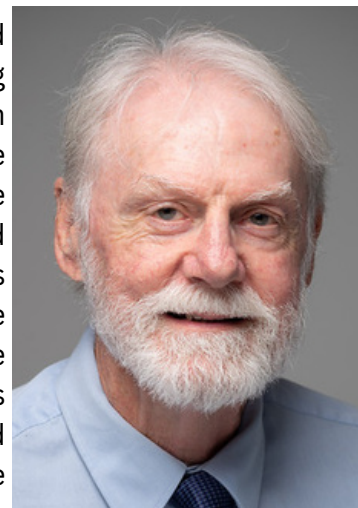


**Professor Brian Selgrade**

"Data Analysis in Nutrition was a brand new course at Westfield State last fall. With all the nutrition advice floating around social media and elsewhere, the purpose behind this course was to help students learn how to tell whether nutrition information they see online is based on sound science, developing science that is still uncertain, or, frankly, total BS. The class built up to a Clarifying Controversial Health Topics, in which students thoroughly researched a nutrition issue of their interest and wrote a popular media article or letter to a public official about that issue.

### The Legacy of Horace Mann

The Legacy of Horace Mann, focusing on the man often called "the father of American public education" and his continuing influence. A highlight of the course was a guest lecture from Emeritus WSU History Professor Robert Brown, from whose history of the Massachusetts state college system, *The Rise and Fall of the People's Colleges*, the students had read several chapters. Professor Brown showed pictures from his archive of WSU's history and argued that the intentions of the architects of the "normal" schools, as teachers colleges were called, did not always conform to the needs of the students who attended them, who pressed for broader curricula and activities that eventually shaped the current state college liberal arts colleges.



**Professor Glen Brewster**





# Spring 2026 Honors Seminars



## Spring 2026 Honors Classes



### Envisioning Justice with Professor Tian Jia Dong

In the meantime, we also reflect on our own moral and political assumptions and personal experiences. We work hard to equip ourselves with the highest level of human wisdom so that we grow into more critical readers, effective writers and profound thinkers.

We humans have been fighting for social justice for thousands of years, but the mission is still far from accomplished, despite the progress we have made. Why is it so difficult? What can we do if we desire a just society?

The course is designed to not only educate students on current events, but to also allow students to take steps towards actionable change. Through this course every student had the hands on experience of learning about the world around us, and then given the opportunity to be the change we wanted to see.



### Science, Technology & Social Justice with Professor Frank Giuliano

This engaging and impactful course teaches incredibly important topics that stick with students, empowering us for our futures.



### Chinatown with Professor Brian Chen

stereotypes and myths like the “model minority” have affected Chinese Americans, and that histories ripple effects to present day.

The Honor’s Chinatown course is an excellent way to learn more about Chinese Americans and their history not only in how Chinese people moved to the US but also in other countries. As a Chinese American it was interesting to learn about history that often is untold in American school systems. In class we learned about how certain stereotypes were popularized, how Chinese Americans used perception in order to carve a place in the US, along with how



# Alumni Spotlight



## Michael Brill



Michael Brill  
Class of 2012  
Pictured with Professor  
Vanessa Diana

Michael (Mike) Brill is a former student and graduate of the class of 2012 and is currently working at Westfield State as a Professor in the Political Science Department. Mike upon graduating as an undergraduate at Westfield State University went on to pursue a Masters Degree at Georgetown University in Middle Eastern Studies from the School of Foreign Service, and is now a PhD candidate at Princeton University where he is studying the history of Iraq. In reference to his work, Mike said it is “very much a continuation of my Senior Commonwealth Honor’s Project.” Mike attributes much of his success to the Language Programs that he was a part of and the J-terms he spent over seas. “unfortunately,” Mike said, “some of the opportunities that were there aren’t here anymore such as Arabic, Chinese and Italian classes and there is less in the way of travel opportunities with the J term classes and trips to the middle east which really

created a lot of opportunities for me.” Mike mentioned that he hoped to see some of these opportunities which were instrumental in helping him continue his education and get fellowship opportunities oversees, come back in the same capacity for the Westfield State curriculum. One trip Mike highlighted was one of his trips to the Middle East where he went with several students and Professor John Paulman of the Communications Department to Jordan. Mike says although it was outside of Professor Paulman’s academic interests, he was

able to give great insight on the region to all students who attended. Mike mentioned several professors including Professor Paulman that were mentors and advocates for him during his time at Westfield State including professors, Ricky Kantrowitz, Glen Brewster, Vanessa Diana, John Demsey, Mark Habotay, Hugh Jo, and Brahim Oulbied. Mike also made a point to mention Gretchen Konrad from the Honor’s Department and was incredibly thankful for her help during his time as a student.



Mike Brill and other Westfield State students visiting Jordan with Professor John Paulman

Since his time at Westfield State University, Mike has pursued several academic endeavors. Beyond his current pursuit of a Ph.D. at Princeton University, Mike has had fellowships at Stanford University, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Thinktank at the US Air Force Academy, and even in Washington D.C. at the Air Force Academy. Mike hopes to continue his career in academia whether that be through teaching and/or research positions, preferably in this area, upon his graduation.

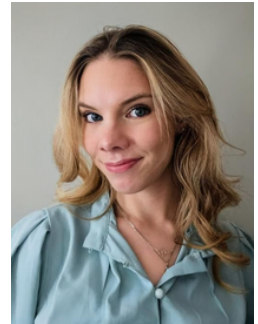


# Alumni Spotlight



## Annabelle Yeaton

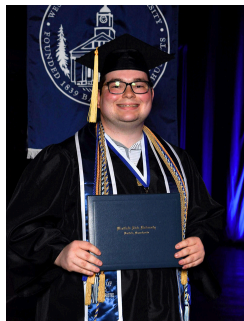
Annabelle (Annie) Yeaton is a former student and graduate of the class of 2025. Annie graduated with a double major in Psychology and Communications with a concentration in Public Relations as a Dean’s List recipient. Annie recognizes herself as a proud member of the Honors Program for all four years at Westfield State University. For her Commonwealth Honors Project thesis, Annie conducted research that looked into *Reshaping Adult Entertainment*. As an active member of our campus community, Annie served as the Treasurer for Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communications Honor Society and worked as a Tour Guide on campus for all four years. Annie largely attributes her time as a Tour Guide and her mentorship under Katelyn Shea, Associate Director of Admissions, for helping her discover her passion in Admissions. Today, Annie works as a Graduate Admissions Counselor at Stonehill College. Her goal is to be a resource and mentor for students as they take the next step in their higher education journey.



Annabelle Yeaton,  
Class of 2025

# Alumni Spotlight

## Daniel Currier



Daniel Currier  
Class of 2025

Daniel (Dan) Currier is a former student and graduate of the class of 2025. Dan graduated with a double-major in Accounting and Finance and currently is pursuing his MBA at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell while taking the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam. Dan has passed the first two sections of the CPA Exam and is waiting to hear back on the last two sections! Dan spoke fondly of his time here at Westfield State, at the foothill of the Berkshires, and cannot believe it has been over four years since he first stepped on campus. Dan still remembers the hot, humid day in August when he walked onto campus for Honors Orientation. Dan went on to talk about his time as an Honors student, saying he was, “grateful for the time I spent as a student within the Honors Program.” When I asked Dan about some of his favorite memories with Honors he mentioned his Upper-Level Interdisciplinary Seminar. The class, taught by Professors Leah Nielsen (English) and James Schlaffer (Economics) focused on the hit HBO show *The Wire*. Dan mentioned, “Not only did we get to watch the show; we were able to connect the themes of that show to our own disciplines and present our findings at CURCA. I ended up going to NRHC in Pittsburgh, PA to share my research as well! The class and the project ultimately prepared me well for my Commonwealth Honors Project.” Dan recently took on a new role as a staff accountant at Withum, a national accounting firm, where he focuses on audits within the not-for-profit, government, and education niche. Dan misses his time on-campus but looks back with immense gratitude for Westfield State, “I will always be an Owl and look forward to visiting again soon!”





# Student Spotlight



## Ali Sutherland



Ali Sutherland is an Honors Health Sciences major with aspirations to pursue a career as an Occupational Therapist post-graduation. Ali has worked for the U.S. Army as an Emergency Medical Technician and currently is a Combat Medic for the United States Army Reserve. Ali talked about what Westfield State University and the Honor's Program mean to him as an "opportunity to learn and make a difference." Ali noted that his words may come across as "generic and cliché;" however, he believes this is a problem within our thoughts about higher education. Ali asks the question, "Have we become so desensitized to the world that they want to learn and make a difference?" He explains, "at Westfield State I feel that the faculty, staff, and the professors work to fight back against that [desensitization] by consistently working to enable and push us to critically think." Ali says he is grateful to be a part of this community, and that he has learned so much from classes beyond his major even. One class in particular, that Ali mentioned, Geography of Poverty and Hunger, showed how patient non-compliance can be bigger than negligence but can also surround issues such as poverty and financial stress.



# Student Spotlight

## Amber Lyons



Amber Lyons is a nonbinary graphic designer, art historian, and collage artist. They will be graduating from Westfield State in May 2026 with a Bachelor of Fine Art in Graphic Design. Their artwork has been featured in *Persona*, Westfield State's student-run literary journal, and their research on art history has been presented at CURCA and the Northeast Regional Honors Conference (NRHC). They have also designed two year's worth of professional cover art for the NRHC. They aim to pursue a career in design while incorporating art historical narratives and collage aesthetic into their work. Alongside design, they want to share their love of collage through fine art exhibitions or by selling their work at local events and online.

Amber has had recent opportunities to design for Banacos Academic Center, Academic Affairs, Western Massachusetts Writing Project, as well as *Persona* literary journal. They are especially excited for the project with *Persona* because it involves intertwining design and collage to create an engaging cover for the 2025-2026 edition of *Persona*. At the Fall Forum, they will be presenting their Commonwealth Honors Project, titled *Layered: An Exploration in the Medium of Collage*. *Layered* is a creative project consisting of a three-part series of large-scale original collage works rooted in themes of generational trauma, gender politics, and anti-consumerism, and a process book that documents my entire artistic process. The process book serves as a visual compilation of my notes, sketches, experimentation, and revisions. It also includes written segments on Amber's process, art historical connections, and personal influences. This project is significant as it provides viewers with an opportunity to engage with personal, social, and political themes through collage while exploring the medium's history and techniques.





# Community Events



## End Hunger New England Food Packing Event

On Saturday December 6th, Westfield State University's Commonwealth Honors Program is partnering with End Hunger New England to host a meal packaging event to aid those in our community experiencing food insecurity at this time of dire need. Julia Cincotta, a Sophomore Psychology and Social Work Double major and the Honors Community Service Coordinator worked with Sarah Nabulsi, Graduate Assistant of the Honors Program (Both pictured below) to orchestrate the event with the Honors Program and its students.



Julia Cincotta (Left) and Sarah Nabulsi (Right) pictured with a volunteer (Middle) at End Hunger New England Food Packing Event



“This process as a whole has taught me so much about what goes into planning community service events,” Julia explained. “For starters, we needed to apply for grant funding. The Honors Program supported in writing a grant proposal giving an outline of the event, as well as what the goals of the event were. Once we received grant funding we were able to work alongside End Hunger New England to choose a meal and put food on the table for so many families in need. Once the meal was chosen it was then time to reach out to local food pantries to let them know about the meals that we will be packing and distributing. Advertisement as well has been crucial in this process for getting the word out and getting volunteers.”





# Community Events



## A BRIGHT Future at Westfield State University

On Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Westfield State University was visited by Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll to discuss needed improvements to the university's infrastructure. The BRIGHT Act, a legislative proposal to put 3 billion dollars towards infrastructure improvements for college campuses statewide, is a central part of the administrations efforts to improve college resources and for Westfield State to receive necessary improvements to multiple buildings on campus. As part of her visit, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll was given a tour of the university, stopping at our newest academic building, Parenzo Hall, followed by two of the oldest buildings on campus, Lammers Hall and Bates Hall. As part of the tour Lieutenant Governor Driscoll met with a few Westfield State students, one of which being the President of the Student Government Association, Justin Wald. "Seeing all the stuff that we've gone through today and seeing the buildings using them on a daily basis, it's really nice to see that she [Lieutenant Governor Driscoll] wants to help solve the issue and modernize for our future generations," says Justin. After her tour, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll mentioned how, "this campus is beautiful, this community really has a great partnership with Westfield State University, but the buildings are old, and this is what the BRIGHT Act is intended to do—to make investments in students and staff's higher education so the outcomes are greater."



Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll pictured with WSU students

## Counted Out - Film Screening

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Honors Program hosted a screening of the documentary film, Counted Out. Counted Out explores an urgent need for math literacy to understand various facets of society and is especially critical in a political, social, and economic climate increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, technology, and algorithms. The film explored these themes through stories of students and their experiences in math classrooms, hearing from current math education researchers, sharing The Algebra Project created by the late Bob Moses, and providing information on how math serves as a gatekeeper. After the screening, the audience had discussions around the ideas of the film and reflected on their own experiences as math students. This discussion was led by a panel of faculty and members of Springfield's school district leadership. Thank you to Education Department faculty, Dr. Noah Jefferson, Math



Department Faculty, Drs. Alex Moore, Julian Fleron, and Chrissi Von Renesse, and Chemical and Physical Sciences faculty, Dr. Frank Giuliano. A huge thank you to Springfield district members, Deatrice Johnson, Director of Secondary Mathematics, Sarah Trujillo, Director of Mathematics, and Rachel Miller, Supervisor of Advanced Academic Performance and Educator Development.





# Community Events



## New Orleans Trip With Sigma Tau Delta

This 2026 Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society Annual Convention was held in the birthplace of jazz, New Orleans, in March. This nationwide event was an excellent opportunity for me and my peers to listen to critical and creative works by many of the 800+ students who attended. From Westfield State, Lee Gould, Lia Steskla, Caitlyn Chu, Eli Pease, and Julia Robak all presented their pieces to others of different chapters of Sigma Tau Delta from across the country and internationally. Chu, Robak, and Steskla are members of the WSU Honors Program, and chapter advisor English professor Glen Brewster is a former Honors Program Director.



Dr. Glen Brewster, Lee Gould, Lia Steskla, Caitlyn Chu, Eli Pease, and Julia Robak

The convention was an amazing experience with ample networking opportunities and resume building. The convention was rich in culture, food, history, and even richer in writings from featured speakers and student presenters and panelists.

## Fresh Check Day



Honors students and faculty participate in Fresh Check Day. This day-long event acknowledges the importance of mental health awareness.

## Community Service

I studied biology and I wanted to think of a way to give back to the community that ties into my field of study.

-Naomi DeSantana Brito  
(Class of 2026)





# Honors In Costa Rica



## A Costa Rica Experience With The Environmental Science and Biology Programs From Cady Spelman

Honors student Cady Spelman was part of a nine day trip with students from the Environmental Science and Biology departments at Westfield State University. On this trip, chaperoned by Dr. Michael Vorwek and Dr. Karen Vorwerk, students traveled to many different locations inland and along the coast line. Along with Dr. Vorwek and Dr. Vorwerk, the team was guided by their tour guide Mark Wainwright, a herpetologist and an artist locally in Costa Rica. Cady recalls Mark for knowing an extraordinary amount of information about the wildlife in Costa Rica. Mark wrote and illustrated his book, *The Mammals of Costa Rica*, which was published in 2007. Mark originally spent weeks on his own studying amphibians and frogs in Costa Rica throughout the 1990s and has studied much of Costa Rica's wildlife.



Cady mentioned that one of Costa Rica's highlights was their endemic species, meaning those species can only be found in Costa Rica. Cady recalled multiple endemic species of hummingbirds, amphibians, and plants that they saw on their trip. Students got to experience several biomes on their trip, staying primarily in field stations, which are small, cabin-like locations meant for research and education-based groups. Their first stop was in a mountainous region where students got to go on several hikes through reservations which is land preserved for various bio-diversity, and even explore a coffee plantation. After that, they hiked through the jungle, highlighted by zip-lining, a crocodile tour, a hummingbird sanctuary, and an orchid garden. Lastly, students got to experience the coastline headlined by a beach exploration of Playa Blanca.





# Honors Fall Forum



## Commonwealth Honors Project Presentations

An evening celebration of scholarly inquiry and projects was attended by WSU students, the honors community, faculty, staff and of course the families and champions of our honors students. The evening was the culmination event for the fall semester, hosted by the Honors Leadership team, Dr. Juliet Lee, Dr. Joan Kuhnly and Gretchen Konrad. The plenary speaker was Michael Brill, an Honors WSU alumnus '12 who now teaches History and Political Science courses at WSU while he is completing his PhD. He presented how his trajectory from his CHP exploring the Iran-Iraq war has prepared him for his career in academia. Kicking off the 9 CHP presentations, Celeste Donovan then introduced Amber Lyons and their art gallery walk which was open throughout the evening along with refreshments.



**Pictured Above:** Samantha Brady proudly standing next to her CHP Presentation



**Pictured Above:** Amber Lyons presenting their artwork, their CHP “Layered” was on display in the Arno Maris Art Gallery February 17 - March 27

JC Erasquin explored the philosophical dilemma of the ages, the existence of God. Jo Pearse shared their Zuihitsu, a collection of short essays, prose, poems and other writings. Julia Roback presented on her qualitative study examining barriers women face when seeking principal positions in education. Makaylah Williams presented her documentary on the personal experience of black and brown women with PCOS and the development process. Cassie Lorom presented a case study on the impact of an exercise program for a person with dementia. Sam Brady presented on using contingency management as a method to reduce problematic social media use. Beau Derosiers presented an analysis of the design and development of a video game. Finally, Marnie Towski shared her work from an honors education course with Dr. Lee on Practicing critical Multicultural Education.

**Pictured to Right:** Jo Pearse presenting their CHP at the 2025 Honors Fall Forum.





# Honors Fall Forum



## Commonwealth Honors Project Presentations

### **SAMANTH BRADY, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

*Reducing Problematic Social Media Use Through Contingency Management*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Jorge Reyes, Psychology

Second Reader: Dr. Leonardo Andrade, Psychology

### **NAOMI BRITO, BIOLOGY**

*Exploring the Association between Prion Protein Gene (PRNP) Variants in Neurodegenerative Diseases*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Mao-Lun Weng, Biology

Second Reader: Dr. Robin White, Biology

### **BEAU DESROSIERS, COMPUTER SCIENCE**

*Video Game - Design Analysis*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Steve Boughosn, Computer and Information Science

Second Reader: Joseph Lavoie - S'25, Adjunct Professor, Computer and Information Science

Third Reader: Dr. Brian Jennings, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs

### **JC ERASQUIN, ENGLISH, LITERATURE CONCENTRATION WITH EDUCATION**

*Kalam and Christianity*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Caleb Faul, History and Philosophy

Second Reader: Dr. Glen Brewster, English

### **CASSANDRA LOROM, HEALTH SCIENCES**

*Implementation of an Exercise Program for an Individual with Dementia*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Tamara Smith, Health Sciences

Second Reader: Dr. Brian Selgrade, Sports Medicine and Human Performance

### **AMBER LYONS, FINE ARTS GRAPHIC DESIGN**

*Layered: An Exploration in the Medium of Collage*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Celeste Donovan, Director, TRIO Student Support Services Program

Second Reader: George Ramirez, M.F.A., Art

### **JO PEARSE, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, MINOR IN WRITING**

*Zuihitsu Memoir Writing*

Primary Advisor: Leah Nielsen, M.F.A., Economics

Second Reader: Dr. Catherine Savini - F'25, English

Second Reader: Dr. Rebecca Burwell - S'25, Psychology

Third Reader: Dr. Juliet Lee, Education

### **JULIA ROBAK, ENGLISH, CONCENTRATION IN EDUCATION**

*Dismantling Patriarchy: A Qualitative Study Examining Barriers Women Face When Seeking Principal Positions in K-12 Educational Settings*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Jennifer DiGrazia, English

Second Reader: Dr. Erol Bailey, Education

### **MAKAYLAH WILLIAMS, ETHNIC & GENDER STUDIES AND SOCIAL WORK**

*PCOS IS. . .The Personal Experiences of Black and Brown Women Living with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome*

Primary Advisor: Dr. H. Zahra Caldwell, Ethnic and Gender Studies

Second Reader: Dr. Joan Kuhnly - F'25, Nursing

Second Reader: Dr. Chris Gullen - S'25, Communication



# Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference

## What is the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference?



This year, 13 students, along with Drs. Kimberly Berman and Joan Kuhnly attended the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC). This year's theme was “The Haven of Honors,” a fitting choice since the conference took place in New Haven, Connecticut. Students traveled by car thanks to drivers Kim, Joan, Cady, and Autumn. Throughout the conference, students present their research and creative works through academic panels, round tables, poster sessions, and idea exchanges. They were also able to view other incredible presentations by other honors students from over 50 schools.

### City as Text

“City as Text” is a highlight of NRHC, where attendees spend the day exploring the host city. This year's speaker was Colin Caplan, who is very enthusiastic about pizza, specifically in New Haven. He was very enthusiastic and engaging with the audience, explaining how Pizza is apparently a New Haven staple and explaining how passion can grow into a career. This year, students explored the New Haven area. They walked around the Yale campus, visited the Yale barns and knobbls, visited local shops, eat at some wonderful restaurants like Happy Day Chinese or local cafes.

# Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference

## What is the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference?

### NRHC Research and Creative Presentations

All of our 13 students were able to share their research at this year's conference. Students were able to share their research and creative projects through posters, roundtable presentations, panel presentations, and idea exchanges. Aislinn Tilley also shared her artwork at the Student Art Gallery. Amber Lyons once again created this year's official artwork for the conference as well.

### NRHC Keynote Speakers

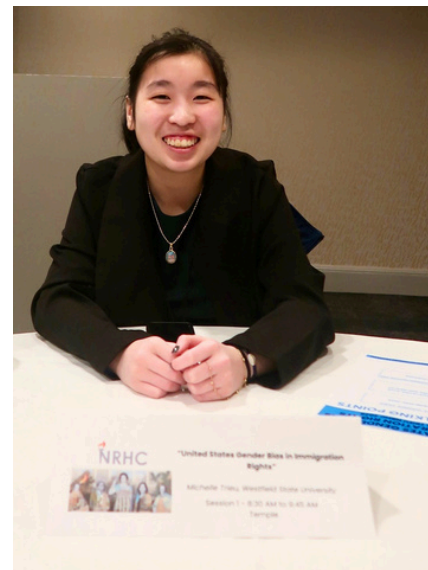
Unfortunately, this year's keynote speakers were unable to attend due to a family emergency. However, NRHC did a great job at pivoting to a different activity. Cards full of questions were placed at each table, with little note cards for you to answer them. This also allowed students sitting together to share their thoughts and ideas on each question, causing us to come closer together. Students were then asked to share their responses before a panel of NHRC members took to the stage to share about their experience in honors. Fellow WSU students, Sicilia Campbell, also got a shout-out by one of the members for her response on “what makes me the person I am today is the challenges I have been able to overcome.”

### NRHC Social Events

This year, not many students attended NRHC social events due to them being late and not staying at the hotel where the conference was being hosted. However, Saturday night, they all went out to The Bar for pizza, the highlight being the Mashed Potato pizza. Everyone was able to sit at one long table, allowing them to share a meal all together versus having to separate amongst two separate tables. Afterwards, students grabbed ice cream at Ashley's Ice Cream. While collecting their ice cream, they also ran into WSU Honors Alum Mekhi Bowen.

### NRHC Awards

WSU was represented at this year's award ceremony as well. While no awards were taken home, Sicilia Campbell was given an Honorable mention for her addition to the spring 2025 Squirrel Squire.



# Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference

## The NRHC Conference: A Student Perspective



“This was my third and final time presenting at the NRHC, and it was without a doubt the best one yet. Getting to return to the conference alongside WSU friends I had met at previous NRHCs made it incredibly rewarding and gratifying. I am so thankful for the connections I have made during my time at WSU, specifically through this conference, and I will be forever grateful for the friendships that have grown out of these experiences. I cannot wait to see what amazing things everyone goes on to accomplish.”

-**Lily Dufresne**



“As a Senior, I reflect back over the past 3 years I have attended. Each year I look forward to joining the Honors program at the NRHC! It allows for professional development, but also student engagement. We all come together to support one another, and have fun! The opportunities and relationships I have built from this are incredible, and I wouldn't trade my experience for anything!” -**Autumn Jones**



“NRHC offered a great opportunity to connect with people from Westfield outside of your major, as well as meet individuals from different states with diverse educational backgrounds.”

**Cady Spelman**



“Everyone who can go should consider attending! It was a wonderful experience that highlighted why I work so hard in school. I met tons of great people as well.”- **Abby Burgess**

“I wish I started going or looking into it before my senior year, don't be afraid, it truly is an awesome opportunity”- **Olivia Harkins**





# Honors Spring Symposium



## Commonwealth Honors Project Presentations

The Honors Spring Symposium and Honors Cording Ceremony is a day-long event to celebrate Honors Students and their research and creativity through their Commonwealth Honors Projects (CHP) as well as their commitment to the Honors Program Value Pillars. The event took place on April 25th in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. The day started with opening remarks from the Honors Program director, Dr. Hillary Sackett-Taylor, before leading into our first set of Commonwealth Honors Projects. This year, we were pleased to have 18 Graduating Commonwealth Honors Scholars from across disciplines present at the CHPs. Between presentations, undergraduate students from different disciplines present research they have been working on through poster presentations. The Keynote Address, delivered by WSU alumnae and Commonwealth Honors scholar, Dr. Gabrielle Trudeau, PHD., was titled, "Senior Honors Project: From Then to Now." In which she discussed how doors play a role in all of our lives, providing us with several different opportunities. She talked about her time at Westfield, her CHP, and her work on coral reefs. Several more outstanding CHP presentations followed this. The event concluded with the Honors Cording Ceremony, which recognizes the achievements of our graduating Commonwealth Honors and University Honors scholars. This is also the last year of our University Honors Scholars, and students in the honors program will now need to complete a CHP to graduate with Honors.





# Honors Spring Symposium



## Commonwealth Honors Project Presentations

### **MASON BOUFFARD, HISTORY & ENGLISH**

*But the field / for labor calls us now with sweat imposed": A Proto-Marxist Reading of Edenic Society in John Milton's Paradise Lost*

Primary Advisor: Erica Kelliher, Ph.D.  
Second Reader: Glen Brewster

### **CATRINA CASTING, PSYCHOLOGY**

*Two Worlds on One Planet*

Primary Advisor: Heather Caldwell, Ph.D.  
Second Reader: Christopher Gullen, Ph.D.

### **STEPHEN CREAVIN, SOCIAL WORK**

*Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) & Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Among Social Work Students In Practicums*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Propp  
Second Reader: Dr. Robert Kersting  
Third Reader: Dr. Juliet Lee

### **LILY DUFRESNE, BIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

*Navigating Burnout: The Transition from Didactic Studies to Clinical Practice in Graduate-Level Health Sciences and Allied Health Education*

Primary Advisor: Alison Richardson  
Second Reader: Dr. Kimberly Berman  
Third Reader: Dr. Vanessa Diana

### **RYAN GOYETTE, THEATER; COMMUNICATIONS MINOR**

*Mental Health Through a Different Lens*

Primary Advisor: Eric Parness  
Second Reader: Max Saito

### **ALLY GRISWOLD, COMMUNICATIONS**

*Small Wings, Big Impact: Avian Rehabilitation as a Haven for Leadership*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Maddy Cahill  
Second Reader: Dr. Hunter Liguore

### **OLIVIA GRACE HARKINS, NURSING; SPANISH MINOR**

*Be the Reason Someone Survives*

Project Advisor: Jennifer Pappas, D.N.P. & Susan Scott, Ph.D.  
Second Reader: Marcia Scanlon, D.N.P.

### **ALAN KLUGE, POLITICAL SCIENCE; PSYCHOLOGY MINOR**

*Pigeonholed: The Circumscribed Legacy of Mary Wollstonecraft*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Heather Brown  
Second Reader: Dr. Alexander Moore

### **KATELYN LABRIE, PSYCHOLOGY**

*Meta-Analysis of Sex Differences in Psychopathy*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Joseph Camilleri  
Second Reader: Dr. Eric Bressler

### **ZACHARY MATLOCK, HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE**

*Neither Force nor Will, but Merely Judgment': Comparative Analysis of Partisan Alignment and Political Context of the Warren and Roberts Courts*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Erica Kelliher  
Second Reader: Dr. Charles DiStefano

### **MARIZA MONTEIRO, POLITICAL SCIENCE; ECONOMICS MINOR**

*The Breakdown of North American International Relations Under the Second Trump Administration: Historical, Political, and Economic Perspectives*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Marsha Marotta/ Dr. Hugh Jo  
Second Reader: Dr. Hillary Sackett-Taylor

### **FATIMAH NASER, BIOLOGY & HEALTH SCIENCES; CHEMISTRY MINOR**

*Evaluating the Impact of Virtual Reality Labs & Students Learning and Engagement in Undergraduate Chemistry Courses*

Primary Advisor: Roderico Acevedo, Ph.D.  
Second Reader: Catherine Savini

### **ASHLYN NICHOLS, COMMUNICATIONS; WRITING MINOR**

*Who Controls the Narrative? How Gen Z Interprets Immigration Content on TikTok*

Primary Advisor: Makoto Saito  
Second Reader: Sinuk Kang

### **DUNCAN NICHOLS-DELAY, MOVEMENT SCIENCE; PSYCHOLOGY MINOR**

*"Diagnostic Accuracy of Provocative Testing for Hip Pathology: Labral Tears"*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Paul Cacolice  
Second Reader: Dr. Paul Higgins

### **MERCEDES ROZZI, HEALTH SCIENCE & MOVEMENT SCIENCE; SPANISH MINOR**

*Effects of a Ketogenic Diet and Paclitaxel on N2A Neuroblastoma and C6 Astrocytoma Cells.*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Robin White  
Second Reader: Dr. Paul Cacolice  
Third Reader: Dr. Tara Vrooman

### **AUSTIN SULLIVAN, PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY**

*How Socioeconomic Status Affects Students' Sense of Belonging on a College Campus*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Mara Dodge  
Secondary Reader: Dr. Claudia Ciano-Boyce  
Honors Reader: Dr. Juliet Lee

### **ALI SUTHERLAND, HEALTH SCIENCE; CLINICAL CONCENTRATION**

*Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders and Birthing Parent Outcomes*

Primary Advisor: Dr. Joan Kuhnly  
Second Reader: Dr. Robin White  
Third Reader: Dr. Summer Williams

### **ABIGAIL TIBURCIO, POLITICAL SCIENCE & ECONOMICS; BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MINOR**

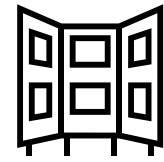
*The Economic Impact of Hispanic Immigration and the Consequences of Mass Deportations*

Primary Advisor: Professor Hugo Viera  
Second Reader: Dr. Hillary Sackett-Taylor  
Third Reader: Anna Boutin-Cooper

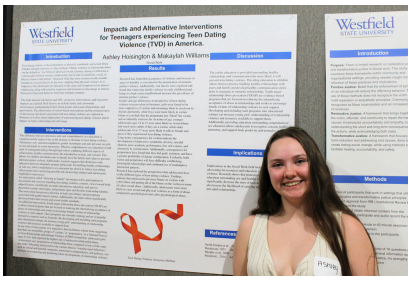
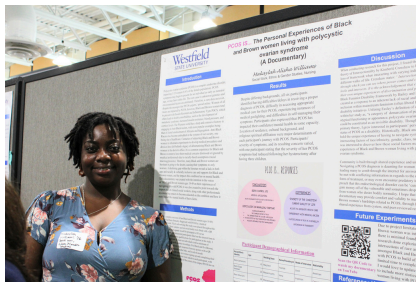
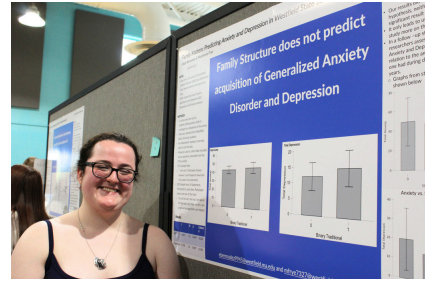




# CURCA Celebration



## Honors Students Present their Research Projects at the Celebration

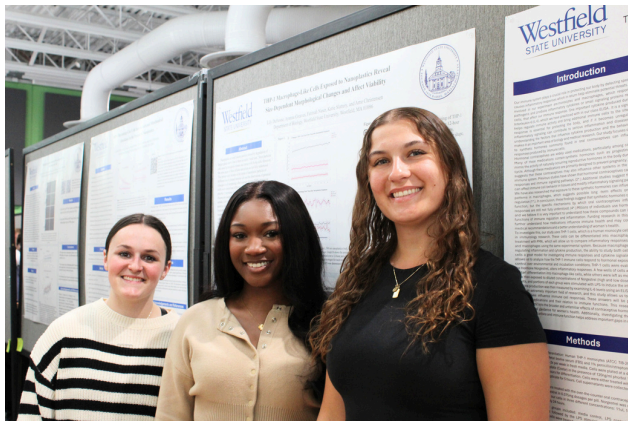
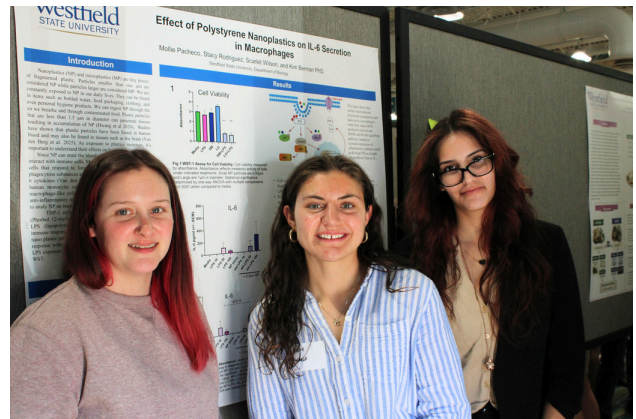


“Conferences like CURCA are important because you get to share your hard work with others. I also think that it reinforces your knowledge of your topic since you have to be able to explain it to people from a wide variety of backgrounds.”

-Molly Pacheco (Biology) Class of 2027

“It gives students the opportunity to show off their hard work and educate others about something they not know a lot about.”

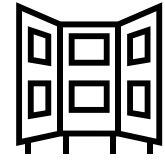
-Naomi Brito (Biology) Class of 2026



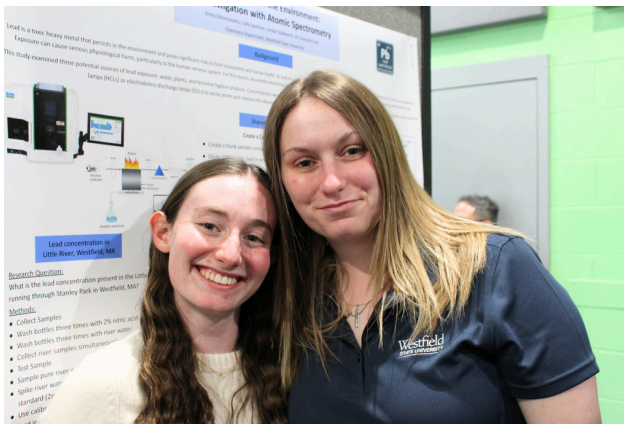
Every Spring, students from across disciplines gather for a day of sharing their creative work and research. The day started with opening remarks from Provost William Salka, followed by two poster sessions, where students had the opportunity to engage one-on-one with students, faculty, and family. Over the course of the day, students not only shared their research projects, but shared their research journey. The impact of their experience goes way beyond the content of the work.



# CURCA Celebration



## Honors Students Present their Research Projects at the Celebration



CURCA is a unique experience that allows students and faculty from across academic disciplines to create a collaborative environment. Not only are these conferences the source of interdisciplinary conversation, but also an opportunity to connect with colleagues in a more social setting.





# Graduating Seniors



## Commonwealth Honors Scholars

The designation of Commonwealth Honors Scholar is awarded to students who complete a minimum of four Honors courses (including at least one upper-level interdisciplinary Honors seminar) with a B or higher, maintain an overall GPA of 3.30 or higher, and complete a two-semester, six-credit, individually designed Commonwealth Honors Project.

Mason Bouffard  
Samantha Brady  
Naomi Brito  
Catrina Casting  
Lily Dufresne  
Joaquin Erasquin  
Ryan Goyette  
Allison Griswold  
Olivia Harkins  
Autumn Jones

Alan Kluge  
Katelyn Labrie  
Brynne Lecours  
Cassandra Lorom  
Amber Lyons  
Zachary Matlock  
Mariza Monteiro  
Fatimah Naser  
Ashlyn Nichols  
Duncan Nichols-Delay

Joseph Pearse  
Julia Robak  
Mercedes Rozzi  
Austin Sullivan  
Ali Sutherland  
Abigail Tiburcio  
Makaylah Williams



## University Honors Scholars



The designation of University Honors Scholar is awarded to students who complete a minimum of six Honors courses (including at least one upper-level interdisciplinary Honors seminar) with a B or higher and maintain an overall GPA of 3.30 or higher.

Jenna Alicea  
Madelyn Barry  
Elizabeth Blais-Bennett  
Alyssa Bukowski  
Caitlyn Chu  
Madison Clark  
Kaylee Colby  
Kyle Cole  
Emma Comeau  
Mia Comeau  
Christopher Cummings  
Joseph Danise  
Kayla Davis  
Mikela Demers  
Erin Dyckman  
Grace Emmons  
Harrison Ganong  
Emma Goulart  
Shea Hamel

Meghan Haupt  
Angela Hayes  
Allison Hill  
Ashley Hoisington  
Evelyn Holbrook  
Sarah Hough  
Kierra Irzyk  
Sean Jacobson  
Tyler King  
Melody Latshaw  
Daniel Lyons  
Kiara Matos-Luna  
Isabelle Mcelhiney  
Shaniah Mendez  
Yosery Merced-Montalvo  
Tyler Miller  
Emma Miolla  
Halia Murphy  
Kasidee Nichols

Kaitlyn Nowak  
Emily Ottomaniello  
Kiley Palmquist  
Isabella Piacente  
Samantha Pitoniak  
Sarah Rogers  
Olivia Stafford  
Kathleen Sullivan  
Tyler Sullivan  
Marnie Towski  
Nicole Turk  
Anthony Ukrainets  
Nataly Velazquez  
Paige Walsh  
Gabriella Zive



# Congrats, Graduates!



## Commonwealth Honors Scholars



## University Honors Scholars



2026

