



HONORS STUDENTS AS LEADERS

The mission of the William Paterson University Honors College is to provide learning opportunities to high-achieving students and to encourage their involvement in research, leadership and service. In this special edition of our newsletter, we highlight some of our students' many accomplishments. Their engagement in significant projects which impact our community and develop our understanding of the world is evident in their stories. I hope you enjoy reading about their dedication and accomplishments. I wish you a peaceful and restorative winter break!

- Dr. Barbara Andrew, Dean, Honors College

ONE STEP CLOSER TO GRADUATION

This semester, 11 seniors, from different majors and representing six of the eleven Honors Tracks, presented their research and creative projects on Monday, December 4 in the University Commons. The projects are a culmination and reflection of the students' personal passions, academic interests, and career goals. For many seniors, they are also an excellent way to demonstrate their strong analytical and research skills, creativity, and commitment towards producing exemplary work to prospective graduate programs and employers. Congratulations to all of the presenters and their thesis advisers for seeing these projects through—from concept to fruition.

The Fall 2023 senior presenters and their thesis advisors include:

Jason Braun (Dr. Timothy Newman and Dr. Martha Witt)

Sara De La Cruz Jimenez (Dr. K. Molly O'Donnell)

Rinesa Gerbeshi (Dr. Danielle Wallace and Dr. Neil Kressel)

Sorang Jung (Dr. K. Molly O'Donnell)

Matthew Mousseau (Dr. Lauren Fowler-Calisto and Dr. Timothy Newman)

Hawon Park (Dr. Lauren Fowler-Calisto and Dr. Carol Frierson-Campbell)

Nicole Pike (Dr. Lauren Fowler-Calisto and Dr. Carol Frierson-Campbell)

Anna Sancilio (Dr. Bruce Diamond)

Julia Sklow (Dr. K. Molly O'Donnell)

Brianna Wynne (Dr. Carey Waldburger and Dr. Joe Spagna)

Crystal Yoon (Dr. Lauren Fowler-Calisto and Dr. Payton MacDonald)

*In memory of
Dr. Lauren Fowler-Calisto*



About 100 Honors first year students presented during Honors Research Day on 12/4. Please see page 2 for more information.

HONORS RESEARCH DAY AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

Nearly 100 first-year students enrolled in Honors 1000 Research Seminar courses gave public presentations during Honors Research Day on Monday, December 4 in UC Ballrooms. Faculty who teach the Honors research seminars each fall introduce the students to college-level research methods and assist the students with creating individual and group projects related to the specific course sections. A special thank you to all of the faculty and staff who worked with the students.

Justice, Equity, and Joy in Public Education



Taught by:

Dr. Darlene Russell, Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Professional Studies, and **Mr. Neil Grimes, Education & Curriculum Materials Librarian**, Cheng Library

The seminar's core research question orbited around how the themes of justice, equity, and joy in PK-13 settings could be integrated into the PK-13 educational experience. This theme showcased in students' research presentations as they considered what factors and systems influence pedagogy, and how justice, equity and joy can be actualized and championed in PK-13 settings. Research methodologies included surveys, interviews, content analysis, and ethnographies.

Writing for Wellness

Taught by:

Dr. Martha Witt, Professor

Department of Language, Literature, Culture, and Writing

Informed by James Pennebaker's groundbreaking work on the health benefits of expressive writing, students responded to specific prompts as they charted their own writing journeys. Students ended the semester with a greater appreciation for narrative's possibilities and the role that artistic expression can play in their own and others' development.



Immigration in Film



Taught by:

Dr. Keumjae Park, Professor
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Students examined various issues related to immigration. Topics included identity, integration and acculturation, children of immigrants, healthcare, and immigrants' influence on American music. Some students explored other topics including animals and conservation and the education system.

Marine Fossils from the WP Campus Region

Taught by:

Dr. Martin Becker, Professor

Department of Environmental Science

Students learned about the well-preserved Devonian marine fossils (~ 400 Mya) scattered throughout wooded areas around the William Paterson (WP) backyard. These fossils were transported in boulders from the Hudson Valley region of New York State during our last glacial episode. The lithology of the fossiliferous boulders is distinct from our local volcanic basalt and consists of sandy limestone. The WP backyard fossil assemblage is significant and archives the complexities of sea-level and climate change as well as evolution of marine organisms. This assemblage also offers a straightforward body of evidence by which humans can appreciate timing associated with geologic processes.



The Impacts of Social Identity and Bias on Self and Society



Taught by:

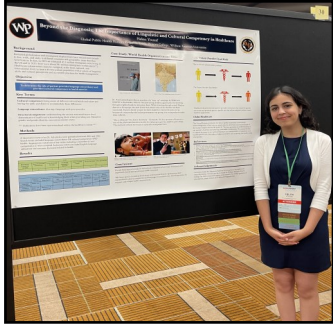
Dr. Elizabeth Harkins, Professor, Department of Special Education, Professional Counseling and Disability Studies and
Mr. Tony Joachim, Instructional Design Librarian, Cheng Library

Students examined various, overlapping, structural social inequities and the impacts of bias. They participated in a guided research experience that connected theory to research. Each student chose a topic that connects how structural inequalities have been built and maintained, the impacts of these inequalities, and tactics to rectify disparities with a particular focus on bias.

HONORS STUDENTS AND FACULTY RECENTLY IN THE NEWS

- The Honors College welcomed **Dr. Danielle Wallace** as Director of the Social Sciences Track, and **Dr. John Malindretos** as Director of the Business Track.
- Eleven students in the Cognitive Science Honors Track led by **Dr. Amy Learmonth**, applied to the Eastern Psychology Association Annual Conference being held in Philadelphia in late February 2024.
- Five students in the Global Public Health Track led by **Dr. Marianne Sullivan** were accepted to the Northeast Regional Honors Council Annual Conference being held in Albany, NY in April 2024.
- **Jessica David**, '24 won 1st place in the speed-selling activity and 2nd place overall in the 16th National Sales Competition hosted by William Paterson.
- **Kourtney Scipio**, '24 and **Jason Peralta**, '25 serve as the two student representatives on the William Paterson University Board of Trustees.
- **Tyler Sanchez**, '24 was accepted to Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine where he will pursue a DO.
- **Helen Yousaf**, '24 was awarded the 2023 John J. Hanigan Scholarship by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) and presented her research at the NCHC conference in Chicago in November.
- **Jessica Momanyi**, '24 participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduates in Engineering Education at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln over the summer.
- **Emily Martinez**, '24 participated in the American Political Science Association's Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University and at the 2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Los Angeles.
- **Alexandra Quintero**, '24 interned at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the summer.
- **Shaina Lacap**, '23 participated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Summer Health Institute at the University of Pittsburgh

FROM NEW JERSEY TO CHICAGO



Helen Yousaf, '24

Her research is relevant now and I'm just very grateful to have had the opportunity to present it to a larger audience and hopefully make an impact," she said.

The goal of her research is to analyze the ways in which healthcare is provided through a sociocultural and structural determinants of health lens. According to Helen, "Health perceptions and approaches vary around the world and are shaped by much more complex factors than they seem. It's vital that patient care reflects this."

While at the conference, Helen was also awarded the 2023 John J. Hanigan Award which is a national award given to one student per year who demonstrates a history of service and commitment to the spirit of volunteering. We are so proud of Helen and all of her accomplishments as an Honors student at William Paterson!

Medicinal Biochemistry major and member of the Global Public Health Honors Track, Helen Yousaf, '24 took a step out of her usual lab setting in November to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference in Chicago. The Honors peer leader and office intern presented her research, "Beyond the Diagnosis: The Importance of Linguistic and Cultural Competency in Healthcare."

Her research was based on the preliminary work she had conducted for her Honors thesis that she will present at Honors Research Week next spring. Helen found the experience to be very fulfilling. "I really think this research is relevant now and I'm just very grateful to have had the opportunity to present it to a larger audience and hopefully make an impact," she said.

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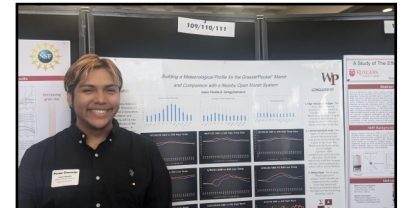
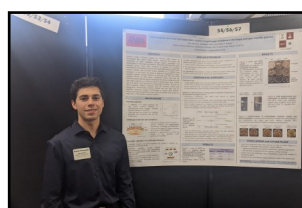
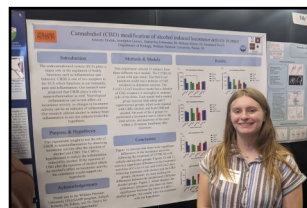
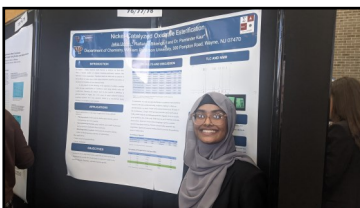
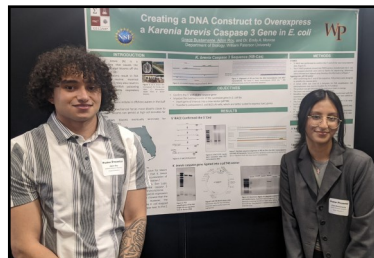
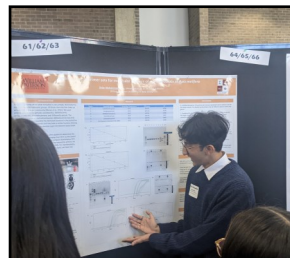
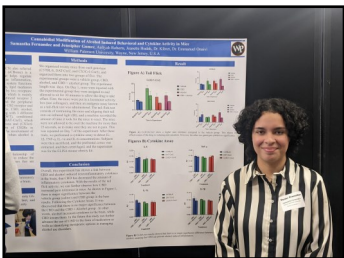
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Helen Yousaf with Dr. Barbara Andrew at the 2023 NCHC National Conference in Chicago.

OPPORTUNITY GIVES STUDENTS PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE

In October, students in the William Paterson Garden State-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (GS-LSAMP) program presented their summer research projects at Rutgers University. The program is funded by the National Science Foundation with the goal of encouraging underrepresented students to gain opportunities in STEM fields. Participants benefit from mentoring, scholarships, and opportunities to engage in relevant research. This past summer, over a dozen Honors students held research positions in the Biology and Chemistry labs on campus and the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve. Congratulations to all the presenters for their accomplishments! We love to see our Honors students excelling and following their passions.



Pictured are (top from left): Samantha Hernandez, Didar Yahia, Adon Roy, and Brianna Wynne. (Bottom from left): Jackia Uddin, Jeanette Hudak, Tyler Sanchez, and Jason Peralta.

#HONORSGIVESBACK

Civic Engagement is one of the core values of William Paterson University and the Honors College. It facilitates personal growth, encourages students to engage in critical thinking about our world, and helps prepare students for careers. Our commitment to civic engagement is demonstrated through our curriculum and also through the many opportunities that allow students to learn about social justice issues, become better citizens, and participate in hands-on experiences that make a significant impact on the community.

PIONEER SERVICE VENTURES



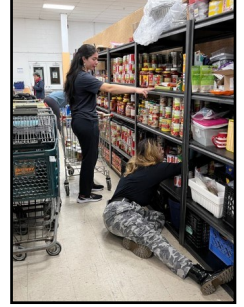
In September, many Honors students participated in Pioneer Service Ventures, hosted by the department of Campus Activities, Service, and Leadership. Out of the 133 students who attended the event, 96 of them were Honors students! Honors Associate Director, Jan Pinkston, also volunteered along with the students and assisted with the event. Way to go, Honors!

SANDWICHES FOR PATERSON CARES



This fall, Honors began partnering with Paterson Cares, a collective group of volunteers who are concerned about societal issues affecting residents of Paterson. On November 18th and December 9th, Honors students made over 130 packets that included a sandwich, a granola bar, and a small handmade note of encouragement. The Paterson Cares organization then distributed the items to people in need on the streets of Paterson.

SATURDAY SERVICE



During the fall semester, Honors started offering Saturday service at the Father English Community Center in Paterson. Each week, groups of Honors students spend at least two hours working at the regional food pantry, accepting donations, and stocking and organizing shelves.

CHILDREN'S DAY PRESCHOOL



On December 5th, a group of Honors students visited Children's Day Preschool and Family Center in Passaic. They learned about the 130 year history of the school and how they are meeting the goal of providing preschool students with education, nutrition, health, therapeutic, and support services that establish a strong foundation for them to succeed in school and life. The students loved reading and interacting with the preschoolers.



ANNUAL HONORS COAT DRIVE

The 17th annual Coat Drive hosted by the Honors College and the Honors Club recently concluded and Honors collected 340 coats and hundreds of other items (hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, etc.)! A group of Honors students, faculty, and staff delivered the items to The Father English Community Center in Paterson on 11/21.

Preparation for the Coat Drive began in late September when the Honors College and Honors Club hosted a Coat Drive Kick-Off and interactive Civic Engagement Fair. About 60 Honors students attended this event to learn about the purpose of civic engagement, and signed up for fall civic engagement opportunities.



Students participated in a civic engagement activity during the Coat Drive Kick-Off where they assembled 200 care packages containing snacks and toiletries)

Additionally, students participated in a “finding your why” exercise that was aligned with the Honors College Mission statement and aimed at helping students think about their own personal mission statement. With the help of funding from the Student Government Association, the students were able to make care packages that were delivered to the Father English center for distribution to the individuals and families they serve. At the conclusion of the event, the students participated in a group discussion, reflecting upon what they learned at this event.

Honors began collecting items in earnest during the month of October with many individuals and campus departments donating coats and other items, and offering to assist in some way. In addition, several Honors students signed up to host their own mini-coat drives (learn more about this on the next page).



One of the “care package” stations at the Coat Drive Kick-off and Civic Engagement Fair on September.



The success of the Honors Coat Drive is due, in part, to the support we receive from the entire University community. For example, Susan Astarita and the staff of the Registrar’s Office collected items in their office to donate to the Honors Coat Drive. Pictured are (from left) La’kiha Bradley, Jess Momanyi, Honors student intern, and George Kavak, staff member at the Office of the Registrar.



Student volunteers sorted, counted, and packed the donations.



Father English Food Pantry Director, Mr. Carlos Roldan, gave the group who delivered the items a tour of the facility and discussed the mission of the organization.

MINI-COAT DRIVES

Hosting a Mini-Coat Drive is a great opportunity for students to lead in their local community by collecting coats at their place of employment, former high school, or through a local organization. Many students form strong ties to their communities by collaborating with stakeholders and other members. The Mini-Coat Drive requires hard work, dedication, and leadership skills, and we thank the following students who took on this responsibility.



*Jessica David, Jordan David,
and Isabel Nemeth*

Isabel Nemeth, a senior Psychology major in the Global Public Health Track worked with sisters, Jessica David, a senior in Political Science who is enrolled in the Social Sciences Track, and Jordan David, a sophomore Biology major, to host a mini-coat drive.

This was Isabel's and Jessica's second annual mini-coat drive at Holsten's, their place of employment and the beloved local ice cream parlor in Bloomfield. Inspired by the success of last year's coat drive, Isabel and Jessica were eager to repeat the experience, and this time they invited Jordan, to join them. Not only is Jordan an employee at Holsten's, but she is also a WP Honors student, mirroring Isabel's and Jessica's academic commitments.

Holsten's holds a special place in their hearts as all three of them have worked there throughout their entire college education. Despite the challenges of balancing school and work, it not only helped them financially through college, but also felt rewarding to see the outcome of the coat drive at the place that supported their education for the last three years. They are especially thankful to their bosses, Chris Carley and Ron Stark, for helping them bring their vision to life.

As New Jersey natives, the trio feels that it is particularly meaningful to give back to the community they grew up in, especially during the holiday season, and they all agree that the annual Coat Drive is their most favorite civic engagement event offered by the Honors College.



Patricia Gwozdz

Patricia Gwozdz is a senior nursing major who has already completed her requirements for the Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology Honors Track. The idea of running her own mini-coat drive really appealed to her because it allowed her to play an active role in helping others. She noted that it is always easy to show up to an event that has already been organized, but she wanted take the opportunity to do even more than that. "I wanted to organize an event that could make a difference in someone's life," she said.

For Patricia, social justice issue of poverty and the distribution of wealth, weighed heavily on her mind. She noted, for example, that a majority of her collection came from her hometown, Sparta, New Jersey. She did some

research and found that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income of Sparta is \$145,000, 86% of the population is white, and 2.5% of the population lives in poverty.

When she compared those statistics to Paterson, NJ (the location of the Father English Community Center), she found that the average household income is \$48,540, 62.6% of the population are Hispanic or Latino, and 25.1% live in poverty.

Patricia said these statistics really put things into perspective. "Although I only live about an hour away in the same state, there is such a difference in the quality of people's lives," she said.



Adham Mustafa

Adham Mustafa is a junior Biology major in the Global Public Health Honors Track. Adham and his family are engaged in their neighborhood and community, and he collected coats and other items from his Clifton neighborhood.

He credits his parents and community leaders in mosques and elsewhere for teaching him the importance of donating to others.

“Even if it is the smallest bit of help, every little step builds to bigger steps,” said Adham. “I believe that if a community stands together we can really make the world a better place to live in.”

Nicholas Savarese, a senior psychology major in the Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track, ran his mini-coat drive through a local business, Panzica Family Chiropractic in Paramus.

Nick thought that running his own coat drive sounded like a unique opportunity to earn his Honors civic engagement hours.

“The experience tested me to set-up something on my own and gave me a different perspective on Civic

Engagement,” said Nick. “I’m pleased that people will be able to receive warm clothing for the wintertime, coats that they might not have been able to afford on their own.” Nick is proud that he was part of something that helped people. “As a united people, we should continue doing our best to help each other,” he said.



Nicholas Savarese



Students who conducted their own mini-coat drives to contribute to the Honors Coat drive were recognized during a reception in the ballrooms on 12/13. Pictured from left are: Jordan David, Isabel Nemeth, President Richard Helldobler, Patricia Gwozdz, Jessica David, and Dean Barbara Andrew. Not present for the photo: Adham Mustafa and Nicholas Savarese.

- Photo by Claire Johnson '24

Be on the lookout for civic engagement opportunities in the spring!

Students recognized at Honors reception

On Wednesday, December 13th, the Honors College hosted a Civic Engagement Recognition Ceremony. Students who hosted a Mini Coat Drive were recognized for their hard work and dedication.

This was also an opportunity for students to receive their Honors College lapel pin. Every year, this celebratory event highlights all the wonderful accomplishments and civic engagement hours of our Honors students.



Helping WP Students in need

A few of the coats that were collected were put aside for current WP students. Anna Segelken, President of the Honors Club presented them to Ms. Deborah Feingold, at the WP Career Closet at the Career Development Center for distribution to WP students in need.

Thank you to the entire
UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY for your help
and support!

We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals and departments for their efforts and assistance in making the Coat Drive successful!

The Honors Club President, Anna Segelken and Executive Board members:

Carmine Coscia, Angie Marcucilli, Isabel Mujia, Justina Saad, Kourtney Scipio, and Cami Vasquez.

Dr. Joe Spagna for driving the van and transporting student volunteers to Father English and the College of Science and Health for the use of their van.

Mr. Jim Shelley, Director of Physical Plant Operations for providing a van to deliver the coats to Father English, and also to his team, Leo Lugo and Khalid Sanders for delivering and driving the van.

Dean Tony Bowrin and his staff for hosting a collection box at the Cotsakos College of Business at 1600 Valley Road.

Ms. Johanna Prado, Associate Director, Center for Degree Completion and Adult learning (DCAL), for hosting a collection box at the School of Continuing and Professional Education at 1800 Valley Road.

Ms. Susan Astarita and the Office of the Registrar for collecting donations in their department.

Ms. Becky Baird, Director of Residence Life, for loaning us the Residence Life bins to assist with transporting the donations.

Ms. Donna Minnich-Spuhler and the Department of Campus Activities, Leadership and Service (CASL) and the Student Government Association (SGA).

Honors Graduate Assistant, Nicole Joachim, and Honors Student Interns, Jess Momanyi and Helen Yousaf.

Honors College Peer Leaders: Madison Knueppel, Isabel Mujia, Anna Segelken, and Owen Walter.

Honors College Ambassadors: Rochelle Estrada, Sorang Jung, Justina La, Jason Peralta, Gisele Rodriguez, and Peter Usher.

Honors student, Claire Johnson, photographer.

ONCE AN HONORS LEADER, ALWAYS A LEADER



Julianna McVeigh, '22

As an undergraduate student majoring in public health education and promotion, Honors student, Julianna McVeigh '22, was nothing short of busy. In more ways than one she was a leader on campus, even winning the 2021 Scholar Leader Award given by the Student Government Association. She managed a busy course load while interning at the Ridgewood Health Department and being a student intern in the Honors College Office. Her leadership skills were evident in her active involvement all around campus, whether that was serving as President of the Honors College Club and the National Panhellenic Conference, being a member of the Public Health Coalition, or being Secretary of the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society (just to name a few!).

Her record of leadership continues, even after graduating and moving on to pursue her Masters in Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy (Climate Change and Health concentration) at the Yale University School of Public Health (YSPH). In fact, her skills have grown. Julianna continues to have a busy schedule as a teaching fellow in practice-based courses such as the

Health Policy Practicum. But her involvement continues to extend beyond the classroom by working with the Connecticut General Assembly's Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity and interning at Yale Law School in their Environmental Protection Clinic.

In her words, "Each opportunity has been so enriching and FUN!" All of her accomplishments so far culminated into a very special full-circle moment when she attended the American Public Health Association's 2023 Conference in Atlanta, GA in November. While attending sessions on environmental justice and park equity, she ran into her former Global Public Health Honors Track Director, Dr. Marianne Sullivan. She also ran into her "Intro to Public Health" professor, Lisa Gulla. Reflecting on the experience, she says "It was so exciting to see people who shaped my interest in public health and to be advancing my education in health policy!"

At Yale, Julianna continues to embody the same spirit of leadership she did while at William Paterson and it is fitting to say "once an Honors leader, always a leader!"



Julianna McVeigh with Professor Gulla at the American Public Health Association conference.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Spring 2024
Honors Research Week
April 15-19, 2024**

*Showcasing the work of more
than 100 Honors College seniors!*

More details and the full presentation schedule will be available in the during the Spring Semester.



William Paterson University Honors College

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Helen Yousaf Office Intern**