

Honorable Mention

A publication of the Walsh University Honors Program
Fall 2021 Volume 5 Issue 1

Welcome Freshman Honors Class of 2025

Welcome Freshmen! As you begin your journey through the Walsh University Honors program, we hope you find intellectual stimulation in your courses, as well as the tight-knit friendships through the Living-Learning Honors Community. Over the next four years, as you progress from introductory classes to presenting your senior thesis, the Honors program has set up a number new ideas intending to help you succeed. We wish you all the best in the years to come.

Below are some words of advice and encouragement from our Honors upper-class students.

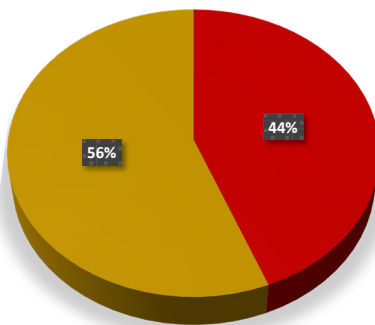
- “Don’t be afraid to reach out and ask for help. It’s not a weakness. It’s how you improve and adapt.”— Sydney Webb
- “See yourselves not as the youngest or least experienced, but as the ones just stepping into yourselves, pure potential begging to be unleashed.”— Anonymous
- “You are where you are as a result of your actions. If you are unsatisfied with where you are, you have the power to change that by changing your mind.”— Madeline Weisburn



Dr. Hepner’s Freshman Writing Class

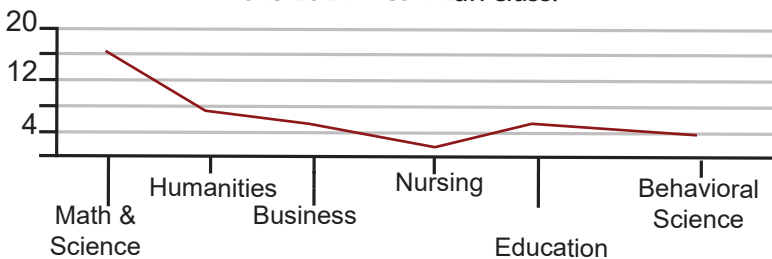
Freshman Class of Statistics

Of the total 40 Freshmen, approximately:
75% live on Campus
50% are student-athletes.



Women: 56% Men: 44%

There are a variety of majors present in the 2021 Freshman class.



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Letter from the Directors

Dear Walsh Community,

We are excited and humbled to have been appointed the new Co-Directors of the Honors program. Last academic year, the Honors program at Walsh University transitioned from having one Honors Director to two Co-Directors. This new framework has allowed us to bring together expertise from our respective disciplines. In particular, Dr. Clevinger is a professor in Biology, with a specialty in Botany. She also has experience in Freshman issues through her coordination of Principles of Biology laboratories. Thus, it is a natural fit for her to oversee the Freshman and Sophomore Honors experience. She is helping these students navigate their Honors courses and integrate into our Honors Community. Dr. Rytwinski is an assistant professor of Psychology, with expertise in Human Subjects Research. She has served on the Honors Committee since 2015. In the role of Honors Co-Director, she is responsible for helping students with their Junior Honors Projects and Senior Honors Theses.

It has been a busy six months in our new roles. We welcomed a full class of forty Honors Freshmen. They have been successfully navigating their Honors writing and Honors theology classes. The Sophomores have had the opportunity to take classes in literature and popular culture writing. The Juniors completed their Junior Honors Projects and are beginning to think about their Senior Thesis topics. The Seniors made their final revisions to their thesis proposals, collected thesis data, and began writing their results. Finally, the accelerated Seniors presented their final thesis projects.

In addition to these academic accomplishments, we have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the Honors students through several community building events, including go-kart racing, miniature golfing, making s'mores around a campfire, and celebrating the holidays at our annual Christmas party.

We could not be successful without the support of Dr. Brown, Dean of Arts and Sciences, the members of the Honors Committee, faculty members who are teaching Honors courses and/or serving as Honors Thesis Advisors and Readers, and student leaders, Sarah Oboy, Kaitlyn Bryant, and Briar Lehman. Furthermore, we thank all of the Honors Students who have welcomed us as we have transitioned into this new role.

We look forward to a fruitful spring semester filled with Scholarship Day, service projects, Junior Honors Proposal Defenses, and Senior Thesis presentations.

Sincerely,

Drs. Jennifer Clevinger and Nina Rytwinski
Co-Directors of the Honors Program



Dr. Nina Rytwinski



Dr. Jennifer Clevinger

Honors Co-Mentors 2021

By: James Matheson

Walsh University strives to place its students in learning communities that promote student growth while providing shared experiences with peers who possess similar interests and passions. These communities provide support both academically and socially to encourage each student to be involved on campus. Each learning community here at Walsh is primarily student-run, placing a high reliance on student feedback. Such high priority on student participation and review leads to fruitful communities that are appealing and helpful to all students.

The Honors Program provides opportunity for student leadership through several roles that provide students a direct resource to communicate with professors and advisors, seek support, and ultimately thrive within the program. Two students who have proven themselves as excellent student leaders are the current Honors Co-Mentors, Juniors Sarah Oboy and Kaity Bryant.

Sarah Oboy is a Junior Pre-Physical Therapy major from Pickerington, OH, with a focus on Exercise Science, pursuing a minor in Psychology as well. A former Honors guide, Oboy is also involved in Cavs Cor Cordium as a student leader for the Generosity Core. She attributes much of the success she has had with the transition into her new role to what she had experienced in her previous position.

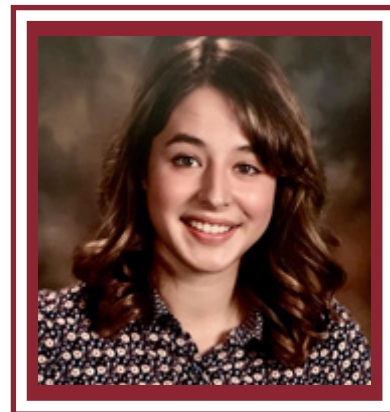
The other member of the Co-Mentor duo is Kaity Bryant, a Junior from Norwalk, Ohio. She is double majoring in Sociology - Applied Family Studies and Community/Clinical Psychology. Kaity is also minoring in Forensic Studies. She is a member of the Marching Band, Campus Ministries, Cavathon

and participates in Cor Cordium as a student leader for the Character Cor.

In past years, the Honors program has utilized and paired together an Honors Mentor and Honors Guide. Within these new roles, Kaity and Sarah have the responsibility of completing various tasks such as planning events, tutoring, and supporting each Honors student as needed. Sarah and Kaity each pursued the title of Co-Mentors for the purposes of improving the Honors program, meeting new people, and being deeply involved on campus. Together they strive to give the program a more personal feel by ensuring that the program is not just a strenuous academic experience, but a close-knit community. Bryant expressed, "Everybody wants to make where [they are] at a better place." We see this trend commonly throughout the Walsh and Honors communities. Thank you, Sarah and Kaity!



Sarah Oboy



Kaity Bryant



Senior Research and Presentations

By Myla Demko

The school year at Walsh kicked into full gear this fall with the start of classes, sports, clubs, and fun. Many people were excited to return to campus and launch right into their activities. Among these students were Seniors in the Honors Program looking to work on their Senior Honors Project: a research opportunity for seniors in the Honors Program to work with a full-time faculty member on research in their major and interest area. The students have the opportunity to present their research at the end of the year and have their work published for other professionals to learn from and reference.

One of the students working on her Honors Project this year is Alyssa Viscounte. With a major in Psychology with minors in Biology, Philosophy, and English, she is taking a different approach concerning her project. Writing an exposé titled *Idyllic*, she is working with Professor Seth Hepner and Dr. Amanda Gradisek to bring awareness to “relational degradation experienced within... abusive romantic [relationships].” She has been working on this novella for about a year and a half, using research she completed “in feminist theory and women-hysteria narratives.” She says that the best part of doing this project has been how it has influenced her understanding of gender dynamics within her literary works. Following graduation this year, Alyssa plans to go to graduate school and study modernist American literature. Besides school, Alyssa is a runner on the Walsh University Cross Country and Track teams and enjoys exploring creative avenues like poetry, music, and film.



Alyssa Viscounte

Grace Andreski is another student finishing her Senior Honors Project this year. Grace plays on the Women’s Lacrosse team and is the founder of a phone case business called Altr Cases. She has been working with Dr. Julie Szendrey and Dr. Patricia Berg on her project called “Game Changer: Identifying the Relationships Between Teams’ and Leagues’ Social Media Presence on Fan Behavior and Engagement: Initial Study and Directions for Future Research.”

Grace became interested in this area of research through her interest in social media, fan behavior, and how the two affect each other. Her project focuses on how social media networks have affected fan behaviors such as “ticket sales, fan attendance/

tune-in rates, engagement, brand loyalty, and merchandise purchases.” This research will help her and other professionals determine the best ways to promote the behavior and engagement of fans on social media. For Grace, the best part of her research has been networking with professionals working in the sports industry, and she plans to get her MBA after graduation and work in that field. She is already following that path through her involvement as Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and her participation in the Walsh Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) research team.

The third student focused on in this article is student Oscar Ortega, who has been working closely with Dr. Branko Bucar to complete research on determining if there is a relationship between a company’s profit and its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) score. An ESG score measures how a company is perceived to perform in each of the three previously stated areas. Starting the research in April, Oscar first became interested in this topic when learning about ethics and social responsibility in a Business class. To explore this topic more, Oscar decided to see if a company invested in aims (environmental, social, governance) other than profit would raise said company’s profit.

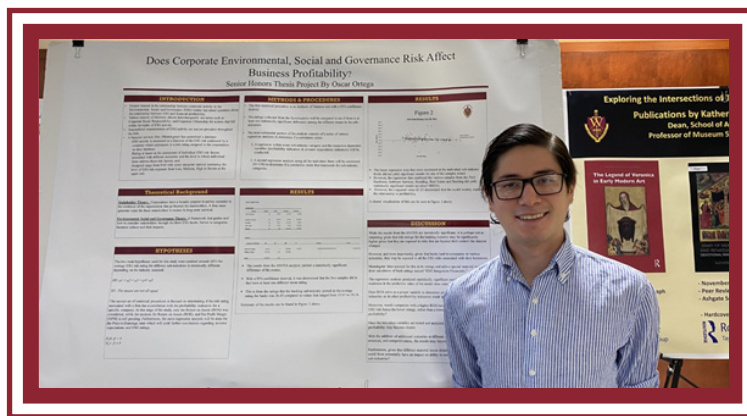
His research has produced the expected results with a positive relationship between ESG and profit, but the relationship is weaker than expected. Nonetheless, Oscar is hopeful about these findings and plans to explore the relationship more in the future. Over Enrichment Week, he had the opportunity to present his findings to students and staff at Walsh, explaining his research and answering questions. He has learned a lot about research methods and is excited to see where his findings take him. Currently, Oscar is involved in Walsh’s World Student Organization, Student Management Investment Portfolio, and is



Grace Andreski

a campus tour guide. After graduating in the spring, Oscar plans to work for a year before going back to school to pursue a master's degree in CFA or finance.

To all the Seniors who are working hard on their projects, we wish you good luck! We are rooting for you as you finish working on your projects and classes and as you prepare to go out into the world with the knowledge and experiences you have gained at Walsh University.



Oscar Ortega presenting his research as part of Enrichment Week.

Honors Student Athlete: Grace Heighway

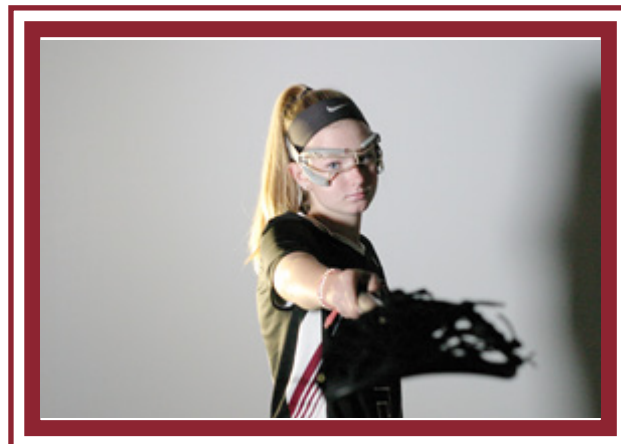
By Briar Lehman

Taking on the role of a Walsh University Honors student is by no means a role to be taken lightly; the program requires academic dedication, as well as a desire to change and grow through leadership roles and engagement, both within the Honors Living-Learning Community and the North Canton community as a whole. Some Honors students have chosen to take their commitment to the University to another level, holding the roles of both an athlete and an Honors student. Grace Heighway is an example. A Junior from Westerville, Ohio, double majoring in Psychology - Pre-Occupational Therapy and Community/Clinical Psychology, with a minor in Sociology, Grace also competes as a student-athlete on Walsh's Women's Lacrosse team.

As a Junior, Grace does not think that she has reached the most rewarding part of being an Honors student, which she believes will come with her Senior Thesis, which will be "writing on pediatric treatment styles for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder." In her future career as an Occupational Therapist, she will be able to apply this research on a regular basis.

Being an Honors student-athlete does not come without its difficulties, Grace says. However, these hardships are not insurmountable. Anyone can work within both programs. "It is rewarding to be both a student athlete [and] in the Honors program." Grace says that she "understands more how setbacks are inevitable and the only way to get through them is hard work, dedication, and respecting the process." Having torn her anterior cruciate ligament twice, Grace says that the most challenging part of being in both programs is the setbacks which have come from lacrosse, given that recovery often takes at least six months. These medical procedures taught her more "how to be strong in the face of any adversity, not just in lacrosse, but in the Honors program and life in general."

Despite the challenges she has experienced Grace has considered her experience in both programs to have been rewarding. "I wanted a challenge," Grace says, knowing that it would not be a cake walk to be both an academically successful Honors student as well as attaining success in the lacrosse game. Even outside of academic and athletic realms, she claims that one of the key skills which she has taken away from the two programs was time management, that she keeps herself busy with the commitments to both organizations. While participating in both programs presents some hardships that each student athlete must face, Walsh is dedicated to seeing their students succeed in all their endeavors.



Grace Heighway

Professor Feature: Cary Dabney

By Ashli Snider



Prof. Dabney

Professor Cary Dabney is an Assistant Professor of Theology, with a specialty in Moral Theology. He holds a B.A. in Religious Studies, a B.A. in Philosophy, and a minor in Ancient Greek Studies from Youngstown State University. He also has a Masters of Divinity from Harvard University. Currently, Professor Dabney is working on his doctorate in Systematic Theology, which he plans to complete in Spring 2022. Among his many projects are a book on sermons and hymns in the 20th century, as well as his dissertation, which is an attempt to create an African-American Catholic theology.

Professor Dabney joined the Walsh community in 2017 as an adjunct professor and has since made his way to Assistant Professor. He is a member of the Honors Committee as well. As part of this Committee, he seeks to discover ways in which the faculty can create a more effective program for the Honors student body. Professor Dabney is willing to advise any Honors thesis project regarding the social sciences, especially those relating to theological ethics, the interaction of faith, cultural diversity, or secular social issues. He teaches a number of classes, including African-American Theology, the Honors class History of Christianity, and Christian Moral Life.

Before becoming an Assistant Professor at Walsh, Professor Dabney was already active in his faith community. He was the Director of the Office of Ministry for African-American Catholics in the Cleveland Dioceses. Professor Dabney has worked with multiple Bishops and even met four United States American Presidents!

Outside of campus, Professor Dabney enjoys many different pastimes. He recently finished coaching his last Little League football season this past year. He also likes boxing and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Honors Students' Creative Submissions

Organized by
Katherine Blawas

“Love With the Heart of a Child”

By Claire Olds

There in a stable, A shelter so small
Where love of a mother and father was stilled,
Kept inside, denying the chill,
That pounded on walls, the room tried to fill.
There in that stable, a shelter so small
Came Love with the Heart of a Child.
He came not as a king, though by right King He was
King of all that is and will be and was.
He came not in His power, though power He owned,
Omnipotence, Wisdom, depths of all good untold.
There in that stable, a shelter so small,
Came Love with the Heart of a Child.
What Child is This? The Lord of Light, Creator of you and
me
Whose small wrinkled hand could have stopped the world
and would someday still the sea.
And yet still we ask, What child is this
For mystery glows and beckons to bliss
And all hearts can scarce grasp that in a shelter so small
Came Love with the Heart of a Child.

Claire Olds is a Junior at Walsh University, pursuing Middle Childhood Education with a Theology minor. Claire's favorite thing about Walsh is “the approachability of all the professors. They have all been ready and willing to answer any questions and thoroughly discuss material.” She finds it to have been extremely helpful.

Claire is in the Honors program and is also a writer with the Honors newsletter! She says she has enjoyed being in Honors because the experience has helped her to develop as a student through consistent opportunities to really dig in and analyze the material. These skills are critical not only in her Honors classes, but in her other classes as well.



Claire Olds

Creative Submissions Continued

“Gamcheon Cultural Village” by Hannah Lesko

Hannah describes the context of her piece; “Before COVID, I had a friend who was able to travel abroad to South Korea. She kept many of her Metro cards, ticket stubs, company cards, and other various eclectic items she collected while she was there. She asked that I make an art piece out of them, so I decided to paint a colorful hillside of a village. She sent me a picture of in the background, and collage the tickets over them. Looking back on it, I love seeing the various places she went during this trip, and feel like I am there with her through these experiences. I hope to travel abroad myself and am looking forward to creating my own version of this piece (hopefully) sometime in the near future!”



Hannah Lesko is a Sophomore looking to major in Graphic Design and Communications (Digital Media Track) with minors in Fine Arts and Marketing. Hannah says that her favorite thing about Walsh are the friends she has made and sense of community. “There are people I have met here with whom I hope to still be in touch 30 years from now. Everyone here genuinely wants to help you become the best version of yourself, and truly cares about you as the whole person.”

Hannah has found the honors program to be a growing experience in more ways than one. She says she is “academically challenged in classes to think and partake in conversations about deep moral topics...” Hannah also feels blessed with many great friendships she has made through the program.

Fall 2021 Graduating Senior Spotlight

By Sarah Elbin

This academic term, the Honors program celebrates Sydney Webb, a senior who will be finalizing her Honors thesis and graduating a semester ahead of her accompanying class. Congratulations Sydney! We wish you much success in the future.

Sydney Webb

Sydney Webb has been wise and intentional with her time in the Honors program at Walsh University. She dedicated a constant effort to succeeding in challenging courses and developing a well-rounded character. Sydney will be finalizing her thesis and graduating in December with a major in Biology -Pre-Professional, complemented with a minor in Psychology and Business Management. In the future, she has high aspirations to finish her education and practice gynecology.

Alongside the extensive Honors curriculum and medical school preparation, Sydney has not neglected her personal interests. She currently coaches middle school volleyball for Green and Saint Paul's, in the North Canton area, enjoys weightlifting training and competitions, and works part time at Starbucks. Her time management skills and purposeful revision has made Sydney into the versatile student she is today.

Sydney's JHP and thesis research focused on a common but serious medical condition in pregnant women called preeclampsia. The low levels of oxygen found in preeclampsia can lead to brain damage or birth defects in children. Despite this threat, the causes of preeclampsia are not understood, leading Sydney studied the possible causes. Her research led her to trace the significance of a single transcription and inducible factor called HIF 1 Alpha. Highlighting her preliminary conclusion: a raise in this hypoxia inducing protein triggered an effect in rising blood pressure in pregnant women.



Sydney Webb

Class Spotlight: Theology and Visual Art

By: Claire Olds

Art is one of the most direct, and in some ways most important, expressions of the human person and the truths that they hold in highest importance. In Honors 300: Theology in the Visual Arts, this topic was discussed through the lens of Church history and development of doctrine. Through their expertise in these fields, Dr. Seeman and Dr. Brown brought these topics together in a clear and compelling way. Dr. Seeman guided the class through history from the earliest days of the Church, the Icon debate, all the way through the Reformation. He also traced the doctrinal developments and debates that served as foundations for these events. Leaping off this introduction, Dr. Brown showcased several works of art that demonstrated these developments. These pieces of art included paintings, woodcuts, and different architectural styles. With this foundation, the floor was opened for fruitful discussion about these disciplines in relation to each other.

These topics were applied during a field trip to St. Paul's Church at 241 S Main Street, North Canton. In this Church, the class was able to view and discuss the stunning stained glass windows, recognizing symbolic motifs and colors, as well as enjoying the artistry and beauty. They were also able to view and discuss architectural features, and compare them to the pictures of the Church before renovation.

At the end of the class, it was the students' turn to lead the discussion. Choosing a piece of art and its historical context, students led their own half-hour lessons. Topics varied from Eucharistic Theology in art to the different ways that the Virgin Mary has been portrayed throughout history. Students presented the historical content and discussed the features of the work of art. They then led their classmates in discussions on the topic, prompted by thoughtful discussion questions. Through this class, students are exposed to a unique understanding of both art and history that offers a new view of past, present, and future artistic experiences.



The HON 300 class at St. Paul's Church

Honors Community Building

By Drew Bailey



Honors students mini-golfing at the Green Family Fun Zone.

The beginning of this academic year has been busy for the Honors program; a refreshing return to business as usual. There have been many opportunities outside of the classroom for students to have some fun and build camaraderie within the program. These activities have served to allow freshmen and upperclass students alike to meet or reconnect with one another, providing an opportunity for students to interact outside of a traditional academic setting.

The first Honors community activity took place at the Green Family Fun Zone on September 19th. This fun-filled event allowed students to unwind, spending the day riding go-karts and playing mini-golf, while enjoying some pizza and the company of their peers.

As we know all too well, finals week can be hectic and overwhelming. Luckily for Honors students, there was an event designed to quell this stress.

On October 12th, a "S'mores at the Fire Pit" was held. This gathering allowed students to take a break from their academic worries, instead focusing on the fellowship of their friends and peers. With music playing and marshmallows roasting, this night was a fantastic way for Honors students to pause during a hectic week.

To kick off the Fall II session, on October 28th, Honors held a movie night. In spirit of the Halloween season, students watched *Hocus Pocus* while snacking on candy and enjoyed the film. Additionally, the Honors hosted the Honors "speed dating" night, where Freshman Honors students met with a variety of upper-class students interested in mentoring freshman, allowing them to gain insight from students with more experience.

As the school year continues, students of the Honors program will continue to grow closer as a community. The privilege and opportunity to enjoy the company of peers (as it was temporarily taken away) has certainly not been taken for granted. Although the year is far from over, relationships have been built, friendships have been born, and a comforting sense of camaraderie has developed. Certainly, we look forward to continuing to grow closer as a community and tackling the challenges we face together!



Honors Mentors' Event



Honorable Mention Staff

Editor:
Briar Lehman

Writers:
Drew Bailey
Katherine Blawas
Myla Demko
Allison Dewees
Sarah Elbin
Briar Lehman
James Matheson
Claire Olds
Ashli Snider

Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Nina Rytwinski



The Walsh University Honors Program provides an enhanced, values-based educational experience to intellectually curious, academically talented, and highly motivated undergraduate students. The program's curriculum is innovative, diverse, and interdisciplinary. It supports a community of scholars that is equally diverse and innovative, as well as collaborative. The Honors Program experience develops leaders who pursue academic excellence, think critically, research independently, communicate effectively, and provide service to others.



Honors Program

For more information about the Honors Program, please contact
Dr. Nina Rytwinski or Dr. Jennifer Clevinger at
honorsdirector@walsh.edu
www.walsh.edu
2020 East Maple Street
North Canton, Ohio
44720-3336