

The Year of Faith



2025 – 2026

Walsh University
President's Report

Welcome to your annual President's Report!

Walsh University continues its five-year reflection on our five core values ... this is our Year of Faith, aligning with the 65th anniversary of the founding of Walsh College – effectively continuing La Mennais College (est 1951) as the Brothers of Christian Instruction sought a broader apostolic opportunity beyond Alfred, Maine.

At the invitation of the Most Reverend Emmet Walsh, Bishop of Youngstown, they discerned a “YES” to come here as an act of faith – a judgment built on reason, and went beyond it with entrusting the life of the institution to Christ ... living out their motto, “God Alone.”

Faith, as a core value, is the principle that we offer an ‘Education for Life’ centered on living according to God’s perspective and teaching.

For 65 years, what the Brothers began, we sustain by aligning and refining our institutional and personal lives with the Word of God as our ultimate authority; thus, we continue to embody compassion, integrity, and service in our work ... shaping both our manner and worldview.

President Brother Thomas Farrell opened our doors on November 17, 1960, seeking to fulfill God’s will ... even though he had never envisioned this role for himself. Yet, when asked to lead by Brother Patrick (the Provincial who ‘dreamed the dream’ of our thriving school), he stepped up and stepped out. Faith in action.

When choices are made, there are no assurances on outcomes. The Brothers knew that and trusted in the Lord to guide their decision-making ... as do we. Faith in action.

In the pages ahead, you will feel pride as you learn of our continuing impact in academics, athletics, and the student experience. Faith in action. You will be impressed by the work of our Honors students stretching their gifts of intellect in ways that serve the community. Faith in action. You will be touched by a 2024 graduate who has committed to a lifetime in religious life. Faith in action. You will be astonished by the national and regional recognition for the Walsh community. Faith in action. You will be inspired by a 2024 graduate serving the youth as a teacher in Erbil, Iraq. Faith in action.

Though you will not read all the stories of the many other employees, students, and graduates, they too freely give of themselves in service to the common good. Faith in action.

Saint Padre Pio once said, “Faith was life ... in books we seek God, in prayer we find God.” Your Catholic university would add, in our institutional undertakings we walk with God.

65 years. Thousands of benefactors, employees, partners. 18,600 graduates. The project of seeking larger impact in bringing this institution to Ohio, assisted by your prayers, involvement, and community support, is prospering under the protection of the Mother of God. Faith in action.

We are deeply grateful that you are here for us and the mission we seek to fulfill.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, *pray for us*. Swords Up!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim", with a stylized flourish above it.

Dr. Tim Collins
President



VISION

The Walsh University vision statement was developed as a collective University effort to serve as the University's North Star and emphasize our commitment to develop leaders with a moral foundation and an awareness of the common good.

Become a leading Catholic university known globally for inspiring others to pursue ingenious practices that serve the common good.

MISSION STATEMENT

Walsh University is an independent, coeducational Catholic, liberal arts and sciences institution. Founded by the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Walsh University is dedicated to educating its students to become leaders in service to others through a values-based education with an international perspective in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Walsh University believes in the desirability of a small university that promotes academic excellence, a diverse community and close student-teacher interactions. The University provides its students a higher education that fosters critical thinking, effective communication, spiritual growth, and personal, professional and cultural development. Walsh University encourages individuals to act in accordance with reason guided by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

We commit ourselves to these values in all that we do as a framework for helping each other take our place as we discover our life's purpose.

FAITH: We recognize that individual spiritual journeys and prayer are foundational in all of our efforts to fulfill the mission

EXCELLENCE: We embrace the notion that our best efforts and selves are critical components to reaching our goals and ultimate purpose

INTEGRITY: There is harmony and truth in our thoughts, words and deeds

SERVICE: We selflessly place the needs and interests of others ahead of our own

COMMUNITY: We share a passion for the mission of the University and the values espoused therein as we care for and support one another to achieve the common good

Faith is the Foundation of Our Mission

Faith has always been the foundation of Walsh University — guiding our mission to form servant leaders grounded in purpose, compassion, and truth. For more than 65 years, our community of students, faculty, staff, coaches, and alumni has discovered how faith and reason come together to illuminate every path of learning. Through a values-based Catholic education, Walsh offers far more than a degree — it nurtures wisdom, inspires vocation, and strengthens relationships that inspire Education for Life. Rooted in faith and looking toward the future, Walsh University continues to grow with a spirit of sustainability, stewardship, and hope for generations to come.



Walsh University's Founding Brothers, 1960

Faith Inspires the Next Chapter: Walsh 4.0

When we look back on the history of Walsh University, we see a journey shaped and sustained by faith. Each era reflects how God's providence has guided our response to the needs of the times—transforming challenges into opportunities for renewal and growth.

Walsh 1.0 began with the faith and vision of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, who founded a Catholic liberal arts college rooted in service, community, and the pursuit of truth.

Walsh 2.0 marked a new chapter of inclusion and growth, extending our mission to educate both men and women seeking a purpose-driven life.

Walsh 3.0 brought continued expansion, as the college evolved into a full university—broadening its academic and athletic horizons while remaining faithful to its Catholic identity.

Now, as we embark on Walsh 4.0, we do so with hearts grounded in faith and eyes fixed on the future. Guided by our mission, we are laying the foundation for innovation, sustainability, and spiritual vitality—not only to endure, but to flourish in service to others. Let us journey forward in faith together.

Faith Advances

WALSH 4.0

The Strategic Framework
Guiding Innovation
and Growth



Year of Faith Reflection

Over the past year, the Walsh University community has witnessed time and again how God's faithfulness meets human courage. In classrooms, labs, athletic fields, and chapels, students have learned that faith is not an abstract concept but a lived response to challenge, uncertainty, and grace. They have prayed together through difficult times, wrestled with complex questions during late-night discussions, supported one another through personal loss and academic disappointment, and celebrated moments of unexpected joy and achievement, from record-setting athletic seasons to student-led research in the Honors program. These stories reflect a University leaning more deeply into its Catholic mission, where the question of who students are becoming matters as much as the degrees they earn. The Year of Faith, part of a five-year focus on Walsh's core values, invites our community to center hearts, minds, and actions on spiritual growth, encouraging worship, service, dialogue, and daily encounters as guiding principles for learning, leading, and serving others.

Enrollment Growth

Walsh University continues to build momentum, drawing students through the strength of its mission and the vision of Walsh 4.0. This year, the University welcomed its largest and highest-achieving freshman class since 2019, with 396 new first-year students representing a 4.8 percent increase over last year. Many arrived with record GPAs and test scores, signaling readiness for rigorous academics. Total enrollment reached 2,157 across undergraduate, graduate, and degree-completion programs, including the largest transfer cohort since 2019. These gains underscore a campus energized



with curiosity, engagement, and ambition, attracting students eager to excel in collaborative projects, research, leadership opportunities, and community service. Through these experiences, students not only advance academically but also grow as ethically grounded leaders prepared for a complex, interconnected world.

Reputation and Recognition

Our institution's growing impact is reflected in a broad array of external recognition. Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce ranked Walsh among Northeast Ohio's top colleges for return on investment, highlighting strong long-term outcomes through metrics like graduate earnings and affordability. Money Magazine named Walsh a 4-star institution in its 2025 Best Colleges in America list, recognizing the combination of cost-effectiveness and graduate success. Walsh also earned a place on the 2025–2026 Global

University Visibility Rankings, one of the few small, private independent universities in Ohio to appear on this worldwide measure of news mentions, search volume, and online presence. Colleges of Distinction honors followed once again, recognizing national, Catholic, Ohio, and program-specific achievements in business, arts and sciences, education, and nursing. Collectively, these distinctions reinforce Walsh 4.0's strategic goal of strengthening academic excellence, elevating the University's profile, and demonstrating the transformative impact of a Walsh education in the lives of students and the communities they serve.



NSF Regional Innovation Finalist



As a key partner in the Case Western Reserve University–led NEO-SMART consortium, Walsh University serves as a finalist in the U.S. National Science Foundation's Regional Innovation Engines Program. As one of only 15 finalists nationwide, the initiative is eligible for up to \$160 million over 10 years to advance innovation, bolster supply chains, and create jobs across an 18-county region. Walsh's role as a sub-awardee focuses on expanding the talent pipeline beyond Cuyahoga County, providing training for unemployed and underemployed individuals in sectors including automotive, defense, and medical devices. Building on the proven Individual Microcredential Assistance Program (IMAP), Walsh will connect residents to in-demand skills critical to resilient supply chains. The NEO-SMART partnership unites industry leaders, local governments, job training organizations, and higher education institutions to accelerate research, commercialization, workforce development, and economic growth, creating up to 30,000 jobs over the next decade while reducing industrial carbon emissions. This work directly

aligns with Walsh's mission to prepare individuals to lead lives of purpose while strengthening families, communities, and regional prosperity.



Global AI Leadership

As AI transforms our world, Walsh University is emerging as a hub for international dialogue on artificial intelligence, building on two virtual AI conferences and the launch of Inspirations in AI Innovation, Volume 1, a peer-reviewed publication highlighting original AI scholarship from around the world. The conferences, hosted in partnership with the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and Notre Dame University–Louaize in Lebanon, convened scholars, emerging researchers, and students from multiple continents to discuss ethical AI in education, generative AI in STEM, nutrition and healthcare, forensic science, and innovative course design. Chaired by Dr. Amy J. Heston, the no-cost conferences featured concurrent tracks, global keynote speakers, and student-led projects, showcasing AI innovation in real time. These initiatives demonstrate Walsh 4.0's commitment to interdisciplinary research, global engagement, and preparing graduates to lead responsibly in an AI-driven world, emphasizing ethical practice, human dignity, and the common good.



College of Health Sciences and First Responders Program

The newly established College of Health Sciences embodies Walsh 4.0's vision by uniting programs in the Byers School of Nursing with the behavioral sciences, exercise science, counseling, occupational therapy, and physical therapy within a single academic home. The College prepares students to serve as clinicians, advocates, and leaders who promote health, well-being, and human dignity across diverse settings. Grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the College emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, hands-on training, and close faculty mentorship. Programs range from pre-licensure and accelerated BSN tracks to advanced practice nursing, counseling, and rehabilitation sciences, supported by certificates and specialized pathways aligned with workforce needs.



Dr. Kimberly A. Cleveland, founding dean and Trina Rambo R.N. Dean's Chair, brings expertise in nursing, law, and public policy, advancing inclusive leadership and shaping health policy at the state and national levels. Her leadership ensures that faculty and students embody

the College's mission to form servant leaders committed to professional excellence and social justice.

A new initiative, the Service to Scholars Program, provides qualified first responders and their families with a 15% tuition discount on more than 30 online and graduate programs. Designed with flexible start dates and robust support services, the program helps first responders balance work, service, and

education while advancing their careers. With pathways in nursing, public health, counseling, business, and other fields, Walsh empowers those who dedicate their lives to community service to gain new skills, earn credentials, and strengthen local resilience.

Athletics: 30 by 30



Cleveland Clinic
Mercy Hospital
Sports Medicine

Athletics plays a vital role in our goal of forming men and women of character. With a goal of having 30

NCAA sports by 2030, our 30 by 30 initiative continues to expand opportunities for athletes while cultivating leadership, teamwork, and service. The addition of men's and women's swimming and diving in 2026–27 will bring Walsh's NCAA portfolio to 25 sports and 28 programs overall, drawing on Northeast Ohio's strong local talent pool. Framed as a living leadership laboratory, the program provides over 800 student-athletes with comprehensive development through coaching, faculty mentorship, and Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital Sports Medicine support. By broadening access and fostering leadership, 30 by 30 advances Walsh 4.0 and strengthens the University as a destination for values-driven education on the field, in the pool, and beyond.

NCAA Division II Leadership



Walsh University is advancing its national reputation as President Tim Collins serves as Vice Chair of the NCAA Division II Executive Board for a one-year term, which began in January 2026. His election

reflects growing recognition of Walsh's leadership in collegiate athletics and aligns directly with Walsh 4.0's focus on strengthening strategic partnerships, elevating institutional influence, and enhancing the student experience.

The Division II Executive Board, made up of presidents, chancellors, student-athletes, and independent representatives, guides the division's long-range strategy, governance, and investment priorities. In this role, President Collins will help shape initiatives centered on academic excellence, competitive balance, health and wellness, and student development, areas central to Walsh's mission of forming servant leaders. Serving alongside Chair-Elect Sandra Woodley of The University of

Texas Permian Basin, President Collins will contribute to the implementation of Division II's six-year operating plan, reinforcing national standards while amplifying Walsh University's voice in shaping the future of intercollegiate athletics.



Global Partnership with Iraq

Walsh University continues to cultivate its partnership with the Catholic University in Erbil (CUE), welcoming Provost Fr. Dr. Karam Shamasha, Mrs. Vida Hanna, and Mr. Stephen Rasche to campus. The visit included meetings to expand academic collaboration, student and faculty exchanges, and employment opportunities for graduates. This partnership, formalized during Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda's 2022 visit and furthered through President Tim Collins' 2025 visit to Iraq, has enabled students Treza Raad and Meerna Mohanad to begin studies at Walsh, while graduates like Kael Shobel '25 teach at Mar Qardakh International School, exemplifying mission-driven global engagement.

Global Leadership in Community-Engaged Learning

Walsh's community-engaged learning approach through the nationally recognized Blouin Scholars Program gained global visibility this year through Uniservitate, the international Catholic network for service-learning in higher education. Dr. Nick Morris, Faculty Director, represented the North American Hub at international convenings in Argentina and Germany, positioning Walsh as a model for institutions seeking to integrate academic rigor with mission-driven community impact.



This global engagement reinforces a core strategic priority: preparing students to address real community needs through research, partnership, and leadership development. Senior Blouin Scholars presented their four-year housing and neighborhood development work to international peers, highlighting outcomes achieved in collaboration with Stark County organizations. Their participation placed Walsh students in direct dialogue with counterparts working in complex contexts around the world, broadening their understanding of service, citizenship, and human dignity.

The program continues to yield measurable impact locally and meaningful contributions to the field globally. Scholars have improved community partner systems, informed regional housing studies, and advanced best practices in service-learning through international presentations typically reserved for faculty. By combining local action with global scholarship, the Blouin Scholars Program demonstrates how Walsh equips graduates to become ethical leaders who strengthen communities here in Northeast Ohio and beyond.



Generous Support for Students Facing Financial Hardship

Alumni, benefactors, friends, and partners have fueled Walsh's momentum by investing in students in their greatest time of need and ensuring student success. Walsh's largest fundraiser, the annual Cavalier Soirée Dinner and Auction raised more than \$200,000 this past year making it the highest total in its four-year history, and bringing the cumulative support for students facing financial hardship to \$570,000. To date more than 70 Walsh University students have been supported through this effort. Additionally, events like the Alumni Golf Outing and the Women's Committee's Boot Scootin' BBQ raised record revenue while fostering community engagement and lifelong connections. These efforts reflect a vibrant philanthropic culture central to Walsh 4.0, broadening opportunities for students while strengthening the Cav Nation community.



Faith, Freedom and the Future of Higher Education

A Fireside Chat with Senator Jerry Cirino on Walsh's 65th Anniversary

On November 17, Walsh University celebrated its 65th anniversary—Founders Day—with a gathering that honored both our heritage and our future. The President's Donor Appreciation Dinner brought together donors, benefactors, alumni, and friends for an evening reflecting the mission embraced by our founders under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help: to form men and women of character who serve as faithful leaders in an ever-changing world.

A centerpiece of the evening was the fireside chat with President Tim Collins and Ohio State Senator Jerry Cirino, chair of the Senate Finance Committee and former chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. Senator Cirino, a lifelong Catholic and advocate for Catholic education, brought a unique perspective shaped by decades of business leadership and public service. He emphasized the importance of ethical decision-making, drawing on examples from corporate scandals such as Enron and Volkswagen to illustrate how individual choices shape outcomes.

"The importance of individual ethics cannot be overstated," he said. "Catholic education has the opportunity to mold students with a strong foundation for ethical decision-making, even in situations where choices must be made quickly." President Collins connected this to our nation's constitutional heritage, noting that the founding fathers understood that the republic's survival depended on virtuous citizens.

Senator Cirino also highlighted his commitment to civic education, including the passage of Senate Bill 1, which requires Ohio undergraduates to complete a minimum of three hours in civics coursework. He emphasized that informed citizens are essential to a functioning democracy. "If students graduate without the ability to distinguish fact from fiction or understand the founding principles of our country, we face serious challenges," he said.

An important point raised during the discussion was the role of intellectual diversity in higher education. Senator Cirino



noted that many public universities lack a balance of perspectives and emphasized that students must learn to analyze issues critically rather than accept ideas uncritically. To help address this, Senate Bill 1 established independent civic centers at public universities, providing students with exposure to a range of perspectives in civics education.

Among the bill's most publicly discussed provisions was the elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs from Ohio's public institutions. Senator Cirino offered that education should remain accessible to all while avoiding practices that discriminate based on identity. "We must provide opportunities equitably, delivering services in a color-blind and gender-blind manner," he said.

Both leaders affirmed the importance of maintaining an authentically Catholic identity in higher education. Senator Cirino praised Walsh for upholding its mission, including recognition by the Cardinal Newman Society. He cautioned against institutions that have drifted from their Catholic roots, emphasizing that students educated in faith and virtue



become “apostles and disciples” in their communities and workplaces. President Collins highlighted Walsh’s commitment to guiding students to understand reality, think critically, and live authentically, noting that Catholic education teaches students *how* to think, rather than *what* to think.

The conversation also acknowledged the challenges facing higher education, including demographic shifts, declining enrollment, and an increasingly polarized society. Yet both leaders expressed confidence that institutions like Walsh, grounded in an authentic Catholic worldview and committed to virtue, are precisely what this moment requires.

The fireside chat highlighted why Walsh’s mission remains vital. In an era of uncertainty, Walsh continues to welcome all students and form them in truth, virtue, and ethical leadership. As we mark 65 years since our founders established the University, that original vision endures: to educate the whole person, cultivate intellectual and moral excellence, and prepare graduates to serve faithfully in their professions, communities, and families.

President Collins reminded attendees that the Brothers of Christian Instruction envisioned a prophetic mission—welcoming students from all walks of life, regardless of need or creed, while maintaining authentic Catholic witness. “You all are the angels of Walsh University,” he said.

“Everything we do for our students is made possible by the generosity of our donors and benefactors, who choose to be part of something greater than themselves.” – President Tim Collins

While the challenges for higher education remain real, so does our calling. Walsh University will continue to offer what our students—and our nation—need most: an education rooted in truth, animated by faith, and committed to forming leaders of character. As we move forward into the next 65 years, we do so with gratitude and renewed commitment to forming minds and hearts for lives of leadership and service in Christ.



65th Anniversary:

Faith Builds A Community of Support



Ben Biery, '00, Board Member

"As a proud alum, former athlete and now Board Member, I am delighted to see how much Walsh has grown and thrived over the years. For 65 years, I am especially proud of it's long standing tradition of excellence in athletics on and off the field."



Bishop David Bonnar, Board Member

"I want to extend my heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to the Walsh University family as they mark 65 years. What an accomplishment! We are so blessed by their presence in our diocese as they help sow seeds for the future and provide education for life."



Ohio Senator Jerry Cirino

"You have been providing outstanding programs in the true Catholic tradition to your students. Congratulations on that great achievement, and please continue doing what you're doing."



Monsignor James Clarke

"May the Lord take you forward on the road that has brought you to where you are now. God bless you!"



Roger DeVille, '65, Benefactor

"Congratulation on 65 years of success! I happen to be one of the fortunate students who graduated from Walsh, and I knew the seven founding Brothers. They were selfless and magnificent educators and people. They left a lasting impact on my life. Good luck to the future, and I look forward to returning each year."



Governor Mike DeWine

"Congratulations Walsh University on your 65th Anniversary. Over the years, you prepared your students to become leaders in service to others. Across Ohio, Walsh University graduates are making their communities better every single day. To students, staff, university leaders and alumni everywhere, enjoy this very special milestone."



Mike Duffy, Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education

"Walsh University's contributions to Northeast Ohio and our state now number more than 18,000 alumni strong and counting. You should be proud of this milestone and your distinguished history."

**Senator Jon Husted**

“For six and a half decades, Walsh has empowered students to lead, serve, and make a meaningful impact on the world, all grounded in a strong moral foundation and your faith tradition. Thank you to your leadership, and to the faculty and staff, past and present, for your unwavering dedication to students in Northeast Ohio.”

**Kevin Kelly, Board Member**

“Congratulations to Walsh University on 65 years of exceptional leadership in Catholic higher education and its continued dedication to educating young people of faith for leadership in the world as we know it.”

**Gregory Luntz, former Board Chair**

“I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate Walsh on its 65th year. My memories go back to when it was much much smaller, and now its grown into a wonderful institution. I really enjoyed being associated with it, and may we enjoy the next 65!”

**State Representative Scott Oelslager**

“I first became acquainted with the University in 1973. Over the years, I’ve seen many dignitaries visit campus and heard from many employers who are proud to work alongside Walsh graduates. It speaks to the value Walsh University brings to the community as an educational institution. May you continue to grow, prosper, and serve the Lord and the students of Stark County.”

**Congresswoman Emilia Sykes**

“Congratulations to Walsh University on 65 years of service to our community. You should be proud of the 18,000 alumni who owe their education to Walsh University, who lead and strengthen our community – or as I like to call it - the birthplace of champions. I can’t wait to see all that Walsh University and its alumni accomplish in the decades to come.”

**Marlene Toot, '85, Board Member**

“Happy Anniversary Walsh on your 65th and many more. We’re so proud of you!”

**Joe Toot, Benefactor**

“As a Canton native, it’s truly a pleasure to celebrate Walsh’s 65th anniversary. I have a vivid memory of the alfalfa field that is now home to the University’s buildings and a prosperous future. Thank you for what you’ve done for this community and many others around it. We appreciate it and look forward to many more years.”

**Carl and Lynn Young, Board Member**

“Happy Birthday, Walsh! There’s a lot of kids that depend on Walsh University, and we’re proud to be sponsors for them.”

Faith Inspires Hope and Resilience

Education for Life Colloquium Brings National Speaker
Genelle Guzman McMillan



In this Year of Faith, Walsh University continues to reflect on the stories that illuminate God's presence in the world and in the lives of those who seek Him. Among the most powerful testimonies shared on campus this year is Genelle Guzman McMillan, whose transformational story from living a secular life to a Christ-centered life has inspired so many. As the last survivor pulled from the rubble

of the North Tower on September 11, 2001, her journey is one of faith rediscovered, of hope when all seemed lost, and of resilience shaped by God's grace.



Genelle grew up in a Christian home, but as she entered adulthood, she drifted from the values and faith that had once grounded her. She longed for excitement, independence, and the "American dream." She imagined herself as a dancer, a singer, an actress, someone who lived in the spotlight. She embraced a fast-paced lifestyle and chose her path without much thought for where God might be calling her. "It was all about me," she recalled. "I chose what I wanted, and I didn't want anyone to tell me otherwise."

In 2001, she was working on the 64th floor of the North Tower. On the morning of September 11, she arrived at work at 8 a.m., unaware that her life was about to change forever. When the building was struck, confusion and fear spread through her floor. She and her coworkers debated what to do, unsure how serious the situation was. Eventually, they began descending the stairwell, but they never made it out. The tower collapsed around them.

Genelle survived the fall, but she was trapped in complete darkness, pinned beneath concrete and steel. She could not



This event was made possible by Christ the King Apostolic Church, Christ the Servant and Little Flower Catholic parishes, and the Education for Life Colloquium, with generous support from the Wilkof and Nolan families.

move. Dust filled her lungs. Her leg throbbed in pain. She drifted in and out of consciousness, unsure whether she would live or die. Time had no meaning. Minutes felt like hours, and hours felt like days. In that crushing silence, she realized how fragile life truly is.

It was then that she began to pray. “I promised God that if He got me out of there, I would change my life forever,” she said. “I wanted another chance. I wanted to live differently. I wanted to live for Him.”

As she prayed, she began to feel a sense of calm. She heard faint sirens. And then, a voice. A voice called out, asking if anyone was alive. She called back, desperately trying to be heard. The voice who identified himself as “Paul” kept speaking to her, urging her to stay awake and keep talking. He told her to look for the light, but she could not see it. Still, she held on.

When the rescuers finally reached her, she felt herself being lifted, floating toward safety after more than 27 hours under

the rubble. She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors fought to save her crushed leg through multiple surgeries. Her family prayed. She prayed. Miraculously, she kept her leg, and slowly, she began to rebuild her life.

Genelle’s physical recovery was long, but the transformation within her was immediate. She returned to the faith she had abandoned, rediscovering God’s presence and purpose. She became a mother who wanted to model strength, gratitude, and love. She became a wife committed to building a future anchored in faith. And she became a witness to the power of God’s mercy.

Today, Genelle shares her story around the world. She speaks to students, families, and communities about the importance of faith, forgiveness, and living with intention. She reminds others that life can change in an instant and that every moment is a gift.

“It is ongoing,” she said. “Every day we walk through challenges, and every day we must choose faith. We cannot

do life alone. We need God. We need to teach our children. We need to strengthen each other. We need to prepare our hearts.”

Her message is clear. Hope is real. God is near. And faith can rise from even the darkest of places.

As Walsh University celebrates the Year of Faith, Genelle’s story stands as a profound reminder that God meets us where we are, even when we feel buried by fear, regret, or uncertainty. Her life affirms the truth that with God, renewal is always possible. Her resilience reflects the heart of Walsh’s mission, forming students to live with purpose, conviction, and unwavering trust in the One who makes all things new.



Kael Shobel '24

Faith Inspires Purposeful Vocation

Some callings arrive quietly. Others enter a life with conviction and grace. For Kael Shobel, a 2024 Walsh graduate now teaching at Mar Qardakh Catholic School in Erbil, Iraq, the call to serve came through an unexpected invitation from President Tim Collins. The message was simple and bold: Would he consider joining the Saint Thomas Mission and teach abroad? The answer did not come immediately, but the stirring in his heart was unmistakable.

When Dr. Collins reached out, Shobel was preparing for life as a teacher and deepening his newfound Catholic faith. “After studying to be a teacher and converting to Catholicism while at Walsh, it felt like an almost natural progression to take such a big leap and teach in a Catholic school in Iraq, almost as an ambassador for Walsh. The opportunity to travel to another country and do the job you’ve always wanted to do doesn’t come along every day.”

For Shobel, fear was never part of the equation. “Many people might be afraid to fly for the first time, but that wasn’t me. And when people hear ‘Iraq,’ they often imagine a war-torn, dangerous place, as the media frequently portrays it. Yet, I trusted that I wouldn’t have been offered this opportunity if it weren’t safe, and after living here for a few months, I can confidently say I was right to feel unafraid.”

This confidence was grounded in a journey of faith that had only just begun when Shobel entered Walsh’s Education program. “When I came to Walsh, I had just left my old Lutheran Church and had a limited understanding of my





faith. At Walsh, I gained not only the tools I needed to teach in the classroom, but also the faith that led me to Erbil. Walsh didn't just prepare me to be a teacher, it prepared me to be a religion teacher."

That preparation comes alive in Shobel's daily routine. A typical day begins early, as he prepares for class before heading outside to greet students. "I choose to be outside saying 'Good Morning' to students as they come into school." Without a permanent classroom, he moves between grade levels, teaching four or five classes a day. "Every day looks different. Some days I am working with the third graders acting out Moses parting the Red Sea. The next I am with fifth graders reading from the book, and the day after I am coloring pictures of the saints with second grade. Sometimes it is stressful going from class to class, but it is also very rewarding."

Teaching across cultural and linguistic differences requires constant openness to the Holy Spirit. "Some of these children have fantastic questions about God and what the Church teaches. I had a fourth grader ask me why Catholics pray to saints. I have to open myself to God and rely on His power to answer in the way each student needs." Even Mass deepens his faith. "It is hard to understand because it is spoken in Sureth, but I rely on God's will to help me make it through every day."

That reliance was tested early. In his second week, Shobel became severely ill and needed medical care. It was frightening, especially as a first-time traveler, yet he felt an unexpected calm. "After they put in an IV, a wave of peace washed over

me. When I was resting, eyes closed, I felt the gentle touch of Archbishop Bashar Warda's Cross on my forehead. Any fears I had about the illness were washed away. All I could think about was how wonderful God is, taking care of me from something that would have been much more dangerous just a few decades ago."

Among the greatest blessings of his mission is the community he found in Erbil. The Saint Thomas Missionaries live together on the same floor, creating a closeness that feels familiar. "My favorite part of college was being so close to my friends on campus, and it feels similar here," he said. "This group of missionaries is already some of my favorite people to spend time with." From the beginning, their leader encouraged them to strive for personal excellence, divine intimacy, and unity of purpose. "It is wonderful because we really do feel like a family," Shobel said.

Together, they challenge one another to grow in faith. "We have deep conversations about teaching and about the Church. We sharpen one another as Catholic men and women." They pray night prayer together, hold weekly Bible studies, and run a youth group every two weeks. "We are not just coworkers. We hang out as friends. We go out to eat and watch movies together." Before leaving, Shobel worried the team's personalities might not blend. That concern faded

immediately. "I was scared I would have to spend an entire school year with people that I wasn't able to be friends with. Nowadays, I am so happy with the team. I love each and every one of them and truly cannot imagine a better team to work with here in Iraq."

Shobel hopes his story inspires others to see how faith grows in everyday moments and prepares the heart for extraordinary callings.

"The little things matter. Every test, every project, every choice you make with love prepares you for the big moments in your life. I recently taught about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux doing small things with great love, and that is exactly how we get ready for the moments that truly matter."

— Kael Shobel '24



Sr. Angela Marie '24

Faith Builds Trust, Purpose, and Joy

Faith at Walsh University is not confined to the classroom or chapel. It is woven into every aspect of campus life and is experienced in friendships that challenge and support us, in service that connects us to those in need, and in the pursuit of truth that strengthens both intellect and spirit. Throughout Walsh's history, faith has guided its mission, forming leaders who live with purpose and integrity.

In recent years, Walsh University has been increasingly intentional in encouraging students to explore sacred callings.



Sr. Angela Marie (Lauren) Selhorst, Class of 2024, is among four who recently have answered the call to religious life, reflecting this growing spirit of vocation on campus.

This past July, she completed her postulant year and was formally received into the novitiate with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, beginning the next two-year stage of her discernment.

Sr. Angela Marie's time at Walsh was foundational in preparing her for this vocation. As a Middle Childhood Education major with a Theology minor, she demonstrated steadfast commitment to learning, leadership, and service. From her early involvement as a Campus Ministry Club Senator to her tenure as President, Sr. Angela Marie inspired her peers to grow in faith and fellowship. She also served as AGAPE

Director, co-founded Martha's Ministry, and worked as both a Student Ambassador and Maroon and Gold Mentor, roles that reflected her dedication to welcoming others and building community.

Sr. Angela Marie's exceptional leadership and service were recognized when she was named a T.O.W.E.R. of Excellence Award finalist, one of the most prestigious non-academic honors presented annually at the President's Dinner ahead of commencement.

Reflecting on her Walsh experience, Sr. Angela Marie said,

“When I was searching for a college or university to attend, I was looking for a small, Catholic community to journey alongside, and I found that at Walsh University. During my time on campus, I was inspired by others living out their faith and was challenged to grow in deeper holiness.” — *Sr. Angela Marie '24*

Now, as Sr. Angela Marie begins her novitiate, she enters a period of deeper spiritual formation devoted to prayer, study, and community life. The novitiate helps new sisters grow in their understanding of consecrated life and the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience while discerning how God is calling them to serve. For Sr. Angela Marie, this next chapter is marked by quiet contemplation, joyful trust, and a continued desire to share Christ's love through teaching and witness.

She carries with her the lessons, friendships, and faith foundation built at Walsh, all of which have prepared her to live a life centered on the Eucharist, Our Lady, and the mission of the New Evangelization.



Faith Cultivates Leadership

President Tim Collins Deepens Faith Through Investiture into the Order of Malta



Beneath the vaulted ceilings of St. Patrick's Cathedral, light from the stained-glass windows cast a soft radiance on rows of black robes adorned with the white, eight-pointed Maltese cross, a symbol of service, faith, and fidelity. There, among the gathered members of the Order of Malta from across the nation, Walsh University President Tim Collins knelt in prayer, publicly professing the ancient vow of a Knight of Magisterial Grace. His investiture by His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, on November 15, 2025, marked not only a sacred personal milestone but also a visible affirmation of the faith-centered mission he embodies as the leader of a Catholic university committed to forming students who live with purpose and serve with heart.

For Walsh, the timing of this moment carries deep meaning. As the University celebrates the 2025–26 academic year as the Year of Faith, part of its five-year reflection on core values, President Collins' investiture into the Order of Malta stands

as a living witness to those ideals. The ceremony, representing nearly a millennium of Catholic service tradition, invites the community to consider what it means to live out faith in the modern world: courageously, humbly, and in service to others.

The investiture took place during the Order's annual Investiture Weekend, held November 13–15 in New York City, when members of the American Association of the Order of Malta gathered for prayer, formation, and fellowship. The weekend culminated in the solemn Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where new members, including Dr. Collins, took vows to uphold and to witness the Catholic faith, defend the Church, and lead lives rooted in compassion and service.



While third orders such as the Franciscans or Dominicans are communities of laypeople who follow the virtues of a monastic or mendicant founder, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta—commonly

known as the Order of Malta—is a full religious order of the Catholic Church. Formally recognized by Pope Paschal II in 1113 as the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, it is one of the Church's oldest institutions, continuing a centuries-long mission of faith and service that has endured alongside other historic orders, from the Benedictines and Cistercians to the Franciscans and Dominicans.



Its mission to defend the faith and care for what members call “the Lord's sick and poor” extends beyond charity to encompass a spiritual and moral vocation. Among the Order's most cherished works is its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, where members accompany and serve the sick seeking physical and spiritual healing at the Marian shrine.

Membership in the Order is by invitation only. Each candidate participates in a yearlong formation and discernment process that includes retreats, service projects, and spiritual reflection before being approved for investiture by the Order's leadership in Rome. Dr. Collins joined a small group of new members from Ohio who were formally admitted earlier in the year before taking part in the public investiture at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

For President Collins, this commitment represents a deepening of an already vocational life of leadership and faith.

“Jesus Christ invites all of us to a radical conversion of heart. Through the Order, I am responding to His asking to have an even greater part of my heart, deepening my service to others and re-centering my focus on Him. I thank the Lord for this gift and the opportunity to unite my personal and professional life more fully in His service.” — President Tim Collins

His joining the Order weaves naturally into the fabric of Walsh's mission, demonstrating that witnessing the faith can take many forms, from prayerful reflection and quiet service, to reasoned engagement and active leadership. As Catholic higher education enters what he calls its “fourth age,” increasingly led by laypeople, President Collins views his



commitment as a reminder that lay leadership can and must be profoundly spiritual. “My hope is that this commitment shows our students what it means to put Christ first and to let faith guide every decision, every relationship, and every act of service.”

Members of the Order often describe their vocation as quiet but resolute, a blending of contemplation and action lived out in everyday life. That same spirit shapes the mission of Walsh University, forming servant leaders guided by faith, reason, and integrity. President Collins' investiture stands as more than a personal honor; it is a public testament that faith remains the starting point and sustaining force of Catholic higher education. It also echoes the charism of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Walsh's founding order, whose mission to educate and serve “Christ in all people” continues to guide the University's purpose and vision today.



Faith Guides Innovation:

How Walsh University's Center for Scientific Excellence Launched a Chemistry Career

Chemistry major Heidi Kaczynski '25 entered her Bridgestone internship already fluent in the language of analytical chemistry, thanks to countless hours of experiential learning and research on Shimadzu instrumentation in Walsh University's Center for Scientific Excellence (CSE). Her Honors Thesis, *Observing the Impact of Coffee Brew Duration on Consumer Experience and Chemical Analysis of Arabica Coffee*, provided early hands-on experience with liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LCMS). That foundation translated directly into polymer analysis at Bridgestone's world-renowned research facilities in Akron.

"Working with the Shimadzu instruments in the CSE lab opened up a new world of chemistry to me," Kaczynski said. "In class, we learn the fundamentals, but in the lab, we see theory come alive. Having access to these instruments early in my academic career made analytical chemistry intuitive. My knowledge of LCMS when working with coffee samples translated seamlessly to polymer testing at Bridgestone."

Her internship opportunity emerged when Bridgestone scientists met Kaczynski while she was presenting her honors research at Shimadzu's SPARQ Day, one of the events included in Walsh's three-day Science and Business Innovation Summit dedicated to celebrating the successful partnership between the University and Shimadzu Scientific, the world's second-largest manufacturer of state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation.

"My chemistry professor, Dr. Amy J. Heston, knew I was looking for a summer internship and connected me with Bridgestone since they had already seen my presentation," she explained. A tour of the lab confirmed that the opportunity

was an ideal fit. “I saw instruments I recognized and others that were exciting to learn. I wanted to strengthen the analytical skills I had begun developing at Walsh, and this opportunity was the perfect next step.”

When she arrived at Bridgestone, Kaczynski was already comfortable working with analytical instrumentation similar to what she had used in her coursework at Walsh University. “The GCMS system I knew at Walsh gave me the foundation I needed to jump into a much more complex GCxGC-MS at Bridgestone,” she said. “On my first day, I could speak the same ‘language’ as the lead scientist. That foundation made the transition natural and allowed me to contribute meaningfully from day one.”

Kaczynski’s readiness was immediately evident to her supervisor at Bridgestone, who noted that her prior experience allowed her to contribute far earlier than most students entering the lab.

“Heidi was able to almost immediately jump right in with her prior experience. She was eager to learn some of the instrumentation that she was unfamiliar with and collaborated well with other students and co-ops in the lab. Her curiosity enabled her to ask questions and absorb knowledge quickly,” said Jennifer Cimmento, Manager of Advanced Material Characterization and Advanced Process Engineering at Bridgestone Americas, Inc. “Heidi’s leadership skills were also expressed through her leading a cross-functional weekly project meeting. We’re thrilled to have Heidi return to our lab this spring to continue to grow her analytical skills and to help us support critical projects.”

Central to this mission is the CSE, which brings together advanced technology, industry collaboration, and the heart of Walsh’s liberal arts tradition. This distinctive combination equips students not only with the technical skills needed for today’s competitive workforce but also with the critical thinking, ethical grounding, and leadership development shaped by the University’s Catholic identity.

The CSE provides access to sophisticated instrumentation rarely available at liberal arts universities. Students work with high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), LCMS, GCMS, UV-Vis spectroscopy, and Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR). This level of exposure deepens their understanding of chemistry and prepares them to solve complex problems from the first day of an internship or career.

“The CSE lab is a collaborative space that teaches you to ask the right questions and engage thoughtfully with your work. Those skills were essential during my internship and will continue to serve me throughout my career.”

– Heidi Kaczynski '25

The SPARQ program proves what’s possible when students are trusted with real analytical tools and real challenges.

“Heidi stands as a testament to how collaboration prepares emerging scientists to step confidently into industry,” said Shimadzu Senior Field Sales Engineer Heather Juzwa. “She embodies what SPARQ was designed to ignite: bold thinking, hands-on mastery, and the readiness to lead in any lab. Her experience embodies Shimadzu’s vision for improving the quality of life through the advancement of science.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Dan Passerini, Executive Director of Cross-Enterprise Operations, the CSE has become a hub of interdisciplinary learning and industry partnership. It connects students with hands-on research opportunities and prepares them to enter their fields with confidence and competence.

“The decision to partner with Shimadzu was very intentional when planning the expansion of our scientific instrumentation assets,” said Dr. Passerini. “We wanted to create a true partnership and not just a transactional relationship with the company we selected. Our partnership with Shimadzu has exceeded everyone’s expectations. The CSE and our SPARQ program have generated significant funds in support of our science program, saved local businesses millions of dollars, created experiential learning projects for our students that apply science to real-world problem solving, and connected our students, like Heidi, to local employers for incredible internship and job opportunities.”

Passerini added, “Walsh University has always had an extraordinary reputation for our education in the health

sciences, and now we are on the map for our programs in benchtop chemistry. Walsh University has become the nation’s standard for Shimadzu’s SPARQ program and has been identified for a SPARQ2 grant, which will increase our capabilities to include resources not seen in any other liberal arts undergraduate science labs across the country.”

Kaczynski’s summer was defined by both technical mastery and leadership development. She learned to write essential lab documentation, including standard operating procedures (SOPs), electronic control procedures (ECPs), personal protective equipment (PPE) assessments, and risk evaluations. She completed more than ten such documents, gaining a deeper understanding of instrumentation from both scientific and operational perspectives.



She also led a GC method-development project for another Bridgestone location. “Running weekly meetings, setting goals, managing setbacks, and presenting updates helped me grow professionally,” she said. “I learned to lead with clarity, communicate effectively with a team, and plan proactively for challenges. The scientists at Bridgestone empowered me to step into this role, and it transformed how I see my future.”

The experience crystallized her career aspirations. “I discovered that I truly enjoy the flow and collaboration of industry research,” she said. “This internship confirmed that I want to pursue graduate school and eventually lead projects or manage a research team in industry.”

Faith Forms Scholars for Service and Purpose



Service and a sense of uncovering one's purpose are hallmarks of what makes Walsh University's Honors Program attractive and distinct. Designed for high-achieving students, the program pairs academic rigor with discernment, faith, and service. Co-directed by Dr. Nina Rytwinski, assistant professor of psychology, and Dr. Jennifer Clevinger, professor of biology, the Honors Program invites students to think critically while engaging questions of vocation and purpose.

Rooted in Walsh's mission, the program draws students who see education as more than career preparation.

“Our Honors students are not just looking for a career that makes them money or makes them feel good. Many want to find their calling, to make the world a better place and discern God's purpose for their lives.”

— Dr. Jennifer Clevinger

A defining feature of the program is its direct admit system, now in its third year. Students who meet established academic criteria receive an invitation to join the Honors Program when they apply to Walsh, giving them early recognition and access. Students who meet at least a 3.75 GPA but do not qualify for automatic admission may also apply through a holistic review process that looks for strong alignment with the goals of the program.

“All of our Honors students receive scholarship support,” said Dr. Rytwinski. “That reflects our commitment to making an exceptional Catholic education accessible to deserving students.” The Honors curriculum spans four years and is intentionally distinct from the standard core. Rather than modifying existing courses, Walsh offers Honors-only classes that foster a close-knit intellectual community and allow faculty to design innovative, discussion-based seminars. Students begin with Honors Writing and Honors

Theology, where they explore the Catholic intellectual tradition, then move into interdisciplinary courses that invite them to examine complex questions from multiple perspectives.

That depth of engagement is evident to faculty across disciplines. While Walsh students are known for academic excellence, Honors students distinguish themselves through how they approach learning and inquiry.



“They approach learning not simply as the mastery of content, but as a process of critical reflection, dialogue, and integration across disciplines,” said Dr. Cary W. Dabney. “In the classroom, they demonstrate thoughtful engagement, ask probing

questions, and show a readiness to challenge assumptions—both their own and others’—while remaining open to complexity and nuance. They exemplify the Catholic Intellectual Tradition naturally.”

“Faculty love teaching Honors courses because they get to create something new,” said Dr. Clevinger. “You might see a scientist and a theologian co-teaching a seminar on science and faith. It’s incredibly engaging for everyone.”

Faith and mission are woven throughout the Honors experience, including a required six hours of Honors service each year. Service projects are organized through the program, student leadership, or individual initiatives and often extend beyond campus into the broader community. “We want them to see how their learning connects to Walsh’s mission,” said Dr. Rytwinski. “Even in their thesis proposals, students are asked to reflect on how their work aligns with faith, service, and the common good.”



For Meklit Tofu, a Computer Science Programming and Cybersecurity major, those service experiences reinforced the relationship between education and responsibility to others. “Volunteering for Honors service hours has made me realize that education

and knowledge are tools that can be used to help other people,” she said. “Scholarly intelligence is often regarded as knowledge, but having the attitude and emotional character to serve others can also be seen as a form of wisdom.” One experience that stayed with her was volunteering at Refuge

of Hope. “That experience helped me understand how education can mold people’s character toward a deeper sense of purpose, service, and desire to give back to communities,” she said.



Michael Yarber, a Biology major on the pre-med track, shared a similar perspective on service. “Engaging in public service through the Honors Program has instilled in me a sense of responsibility for caring for members of the community,” he said. “When I volunteer, I’m reminded to keep my heart postured toward the good of others and myself, which is an important disposition for my future career in medicine.”



Every Honors student also completes a four-semester thesis, one of the program’s most distinctive elements. Students begin with a literature review, defend a proposal, and complete their project with close faculty mentorship before presenting their final work. Walsh defines the thesis broadly, allowing students to pursue traditional research or creative projects, provided the work is rigorous and purposeful.

“We want their thesis to serve their future. The goal is for it to be meaningful and relevant, not just an academic exercise.”

– Dr. Nina Rytwinski



Honors students come from a wide range of majors, including nursing, education, computer science, biology, and theology, but they share a strong commitment to leadership, service, and lifelong learning. Many serve as Resident Assistants, Peacemakers, student athletes, and researchers, and many continue into Walsh graduate programs. A dedicated Honors Study Lounge in Farrell Hall provides a central gathering space where students study, collaborate, and build community.

“It’s become a real home base for our students. You’ll find them working together late into the evening. It’s exactly the kind of community we hoped to create!”

– Dr. Jennifer Clevinger

For Dr. Rytwinski and Dr. Clevinger, directing the Honors Program is more than an administrative role. It is a shared vocation centered on mentorship and formation. “This role really found me,” said Dr. Rytwinski. “I love working one-on-one with these students, helping them grow and find their purpose. It’s deeply fulfilling,” Dr. Clevinger agreed. “Every student brings a new story,” she said. “To walk with them as they discover their gifts and where God is calling them, that is what makes this work so meaningful.”

Facts & Figures:



2,157
Students



3.5
GPA



42 **36**
States Countries



18,600
Alumni



\$73,204,000
**FY 26 Operating
Budget**



**North Canton tax
withheld on all employees
for calendar year 2025**
\$280,896



**Endowment Value
as of 6/30/25**
\$44,031,748



**Total Financial Aid
paid in FY25**
\$31,397,196



“Being an international student makes me unique, and at times different, but I've never felt left out or alone. Walsh has given me the tools, support, and community I need to feel safe, at home, and ready to grow.”

– Juan Almeida '27

Exercise Science (Pre-PT)

Community Accolades:



Recognized as One of the Nation's **Top 23 Catholic Universities** in The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College Since 2013



No 12 Best Online MBA in Healthcare Management

No 16 Best Online Master's in School Counseling

No 19 Best Online Accounting Programs



Recognized as one of the **Best in Ohio** for online degree programs



President Tim Collins named to The Catholic Herald's 2023 list of **U.S. Catholic Leaders**



Ranked nationally as a **Top University, Top Performer and Top Nursing School**



Featured among the top Catholic colleges and universities



No 8 in Ohio for Nurse Practitioner Programs



4-Star Ranking on Best Colleges in America List



No 1 in the Top 15 Hidden Gems in Ohio By Ohio Online Schools Guide



Recognized by members of the National Science Board for being a leader in STEM and workforce development



No 510 out of 1,000 worldwide



National Distinction for prevention, safety and well-being



Gold-level Designation demonstrating superior commitment and success in supporting military and veteran students



Top 10 Private College in Ohio and Nationally in the **Top 25% of Best Small Colleges in America**



Stands out as **One of the Region's Best Values** in higher education



Hoover Historical Center featured on the Ohio Innovation Trail as part of the America 250 Celebration



Designated a Collegiate **Purple Star Campus** for Supporting Military-Connected Students



National College of Distinction for Catholic Institution, Career Development, Military Support, Business, Education, Nursing and Ohio



Walsh University's Online Courses Earned **National Recognition** by Quality Matters



Recognized as a Peace Corps Preparatory Institution since 2015

“The University's focus on servant leadership helped me see the importance of using my strengths to help others while growing in virtue and holiness alongside like-minded individuals.”

Watch Michael's Story:



– **Michael Yarber '27**
Biology (Pre-Med)





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