

# Honorable Mention

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# Introducing Our Newest Honors Students!



**Natalie Mantini**  
Pre-Nursing  
Chandler, AZ

**Abigail Bologna**  
Legal Studies 3+3  
Green, OH



**Antonio Paganelli**  
Business  
Redondo Beach, CA



**Anthony Fusaro**  
Philosophy  
Emperia, KS

**Rachel Thompson**  
Exercise Science,  
Pre-Physical Therapy  
Columbus, OH



**Caleigh Cheatham**  
Psychology,  
Pre-Occupational  
Therapy  
Columbus, OH

**Abigail Walsh**  
Sports Management  
 Mooresville, NC



**Christopher Kramer**  
Actuarial Science  
Buffalo, NY



**America Villegas-Camacho**  
Biology, Pre-Professional  
Concentration  
Canton, OH

**Carter Lee**  
Finance  
Stow, OH



**Allison Riddle**  
Pre-Nursing  
Youngstown, OH

**Alyssa Cocchiola**  
Marketing  
Randolph, OH



**Mary Titterington**  
Pre-Engineering,  
Chemistry 3+2  
North Royalton, OH



**Logan Trent**  
Computer Science-Programming  
Uniontown, OH

**Laura Bliese**  
Biology,  
Pre-Professional  
Canton, OH



**Michael Yarber**  
Biology,  
Pre-Professional  
Hartland, MI

**Logan Skidmore**  
Sports Management  
Wadsworth, OH



**Meleah Sawastuk**  
Biology  
Ravenna, OH



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Arranged By: Hannah Lesko



Ava Dietz  
Middle Childhood  
Education  
Canton, OH

Gloria Tindana  
Nursing  
Accra, Ghana



Patrick Johnson  
Data Analytics  
Steubenville, OH



Catherine Taylor  
Museum Studies/  
Visual Performing Arts  
Zanesville, OH

Christina Gordan  
Education  
Broadview Heights, OH



Josephine Dages  
Criminal Justice  
Gahanna, OH

Johnathan Ardelian  
Computer Science,  
Cybersecurity  
Mogadore, OH



Bridget Beatty  
Chemistry  
Akron, OH



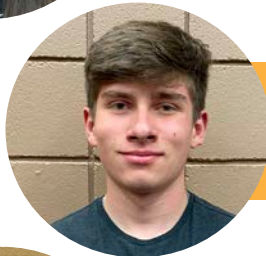
Colin Snider  
Visual & Performing Arts  
Chardon, OH

Welcome  
To Our  
Program!



Jessica Mundy  
Nursing  
Green, OH

Kailey Hobart  
Psychology,  
Pre-Occupational  
Therapy  
Stow, OH



Daniel Palanceanu  
Biology,  
Pre-Professional  
Canton, OH

Jeffery Howe  
Theology  
Youngstown, OH



Maria Purcell  
Biology,  
Pre-Professional  
Centerville, OH

Frederick Shimp  
Philosophy  
Columbus, OH



# Letter from the Honors Mentors

By: Isabelle Rammel & Kayla Testa



Kayla & Izzy

Dear Walsh Community,

As the 2023 Honors Student Assistants, we are immensely grateful for our opportunity to serve the Honors community as event organizers and liaisons to the Honors Co-Directors. It has been a blessing to work as a team to plan service projects and social events for the Honors program. It has also been helpful to share this role: by doing this, we have integrated our two diverse education perspectives into the role of Honors Student Assistant.

Kayla, a senior, is majoring in Nursing, with a minor in Psychology. As a nursing major, she joined Walsh University's Student Nurses Association (WUSNA) her freshman year. This school year, she is serving as president of WUSNA, and is also the senior Campus Ambassador for the Admissions Office. She is also a Patient Care Technician at Aultman Hospital in the SICU, where she plans to work after graduation.

Izzy is a junior, majoring in Government and Foreign Affairs and Theology, with minors in History and English. She is also vice president of Walsh's pre-law club. An avid runner since middle school, Izzy runs for Walsh's cross country and track programs, and is vice president of Walsh's Student Athlete Advisory committee (SAAC). She also is a tutor for GFA, theology, history, Honors, and writing classes.

Our annual fall honors events are always a good way for the students to meet the new class of Honors students. These events include our Mentor Night, our off-campus social event, and various service projects. For our annual Mentor Night, the new Honors students were able to speak to upperclassmen about the program, and selected a favorite upperclassman from the night to serve as their Honors mentor. In October, we held our annual fall social event at Kingsway Pumpkin Farm, where Honors students picked pumpkins, enjoyed pizza and cookies, rode on a hayride, and completed the corn maze. After participating in Beech Creek's Spooky Science event last year, Izzy and Kayla decided to continue this tradition for the fall service event. Students went to Beech Creek for 6 nights in October where they taught children about the science behind blood. They were able to make blood models out of beads, and even look at blood samples under a microscope. These events helped to foster a sense of identity within the Honors program, while helping the surrounding community.

The sense of community that the Honors program provides, both within cohorts, and in the larger Honors community has been invaluable in the classroom and in other campus organizations. We are both very thankful for the many opportunities that Honors has provided at Walsh, and are passionate about maintaining the culture of excellence that the program contributes to our campus community. Thank you for granting us this unique opportunity to serve the Honors program! In such a positive and nurturing environment, we love that we can say "yes" in our role, and give back to the Honors community that has given us both so much.

Warmly,

Kayla & Izzy



Honors students in front of the Kingsway Pumpkin Farm corn maze

# Student Spotlight: Gloria Tindana

By: Alexis Perretta

Gloria Tindana is an Honors Walsh nursing student from Ghana, where she studied general science at Aburi Girls' Senior High School. On campus, Gloria is an international ambassador for Walsh University, as well as a member of the nursing club. Her favorite part of being an international student is being able to connect with students of differing cultural backgrounds. She says, "I appreciate the opportunity to meet and interact with people from various cultural backgrounds, which not only enriches my social experiences but also broadens my perspective on the world."

As Gloria adjusts to her new surroundings, she remarked that it has been interesting to experience new American foods, as well as the colder Ohio weather, as she is used to Ghana, where it is always warm. Still, despite all these differences, she is very glad that she chose Walsh University as her college home. When asked about her move-in experience, she shared, "Everyone was so nice to me when I first arrived on campus. Even at the airport, someone from the admissions department came to pick me up and brought me to school. Also, the RAs have made my stay in the residential halls very warm."

Being both an international student and an Honors student might come as a challenge to some students, however, Gloria is equipped with many strong skills that have made her transition to being a student in the U.S. much easier. She states, "Strong support systems, effective time management, and proficiency in language and culture have allowed me to fully engage in my academic pursuits and make the most of the opportunities available to me." Her dedication as an Honors student has allowed her to persevere through her education with ease. She explains that the Honors Program has allowed her to explore her passion for learning by pushing the boundaries of knowledge, allowing for a rich and rewarding educational experience.

After graduation, Gloria hopes to work as a Nurse Practitioner specializing in Neonatal Intensive Care. She also hopes to pursue a doctorate in nursing to help her make a major impact on the healthcare field. Being an Honors student will reside with Gloria forever to help her achieve her goals. She says "The Honors program has fostered a supportive community of like-minded peers and dedicated professors who have been instrumental in guiding my academic journey."



Gloria relaxing on campus

# New Course Feature: Honors Human Development

By: Olivia Vuyancih

Dr. Kim Metz, a Psychology professor here at Walsh University, was given the exciting opportunity this fall to teach a new Honors course! I spoke to both Dr. Metz, as well as one of the students who took this new course, and got to know both individuals, as well as their perceptions of the brand-new course: Honors Human Development.

Dr. Metz is proud to have been teaching at Walsh for the last 19 years, ever since she began her career here in 2005. Dr. Metz received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Ohio University, and now teaches at Walsh, and also practices part-time in her specialty: clinical psychology. She says, “The fact that I can see clients allows me to use those experiences in class. On the flip side, being able to teach allows me to stay up-to-date on the material, and therefore, I am able to better help my clients.”

In terms of the new Honors course, Dr. Metz said that the Honors version of Human Development does differ considerably from her standard Human Development course. “The thing that was different for the Honors class was that the students were responsible for reading a lot prior to class. They would then be quizzed on the readings to make sure they accomplished this and comprehended the material. Class could then be more about the actual learning, and it took a seminar format. Doing things like going on tangents about certain topics was not a bad thing. It allowed for things to go how they naturally would, without the pressures of having to squeeze in content.”

Dr. Metz also shared how pleased she was with the Honors students who took this course with her. “These students do the work. They participate really well. I appreciate how Honors students are very eager to learn and how much they care about their learning journey.”

After learning more about the course from Dr. Metz, I also spoke to Kate Harlan, a student who took Honors Human Development in the fall, in hopes to gain her perspective about the course. Kate is a sophomore at Walsh, majoring in P-5 Early Childhood Education and K-12 Intervention.

Kate shared that she greatly enjoyed the course, and saw a clear link between the course content that she learned, and her future career. “I think that as a teacher and intervention specialist, it is important to understand what typical and atypical development looks like.” Kate also said that while she has taken courses that focus on the physical development of humans, this class differed because it focused more on the psychological component of development.

Specifically, she highlighted the importance of understanding the developmental milestones of children as a teacher because it can help piece together what skills children should be mastering at specific ages. She also shared that she will apply the information learned during the adolescent and early adulthood chapters to her current life as a young adult, and the

material from the middle and late adulthood chapters to her interactions and observations with her parents and grandparents. Kate summed everything up by saying, “I feel that anyone can benefit from taking a Human Development course”, and I definitely agree with her assessment!



Dr. Kim Metz teaches the new Honors Human Development course.

# Honors Advice From A Senior

By: Hannah Lesko



Hannah on move-in day, Fall 2020

As you head up East Maple Street, your car is filled to the brim with stuff you didn't even know you needed. You can barely contain your emotions, as adrenaline courses through your body with excitement. It probably feels like yesterday that you were pulling into Walsh as a freshman, anxious for orientation and even more nervous to meet your roommate. Nothing can fully explain the emotions of moving into college, but it is certainly an exciting ride! Over the course of my nearly 4 years at Walsh, nothing has brought me as much joy as the people I've met: Honors professors, mentors, staff, administration, but most of all: the friends whom I've made here. I've had my fair share of struggles like any other college student, but I've constantly been surrounded by kindness and compassion every step of the way. The people here will be some of the most special people you will ever meet. I can confidently say I have met some of my best friends in the Honors program here at Walsh, and it is a bond unlike any other.

As I reflect on my time here at Walsh, I think my best piece of advice would be to surround yourself with people that align with you who want to be. You become most like the five people you spend the most time with, and this is not something to take lightly. I knew I wanted friends that would motivate me, lift me up, and encourage me to do the right thing even when it's hard. These kinds of people are what make Walsh a home.

I thank you all for making my college years so memorable, and hope this can encourage you to look at each day with a studious mind, a steadfast spirit, and a grateful heart. As Ferris Bueller once said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."



Hannah as a senior, Fall 2023

## More advice from our Honors seniors

"Always try and stay ahead of schedule. Falling behind in your classes is only going to make working on your JHP and thesis more difficult, so maintaining a hard work ethic goes a long way. Making a to-do list helps a lot too!" - Jack Shanor

"Surround yourself with people who make you feel like yourself and take every day as an opportunity to improve something you have been neglecting about yourself." - Anonymous senior

"I would say the biggest thing is to find a balance of looking forward to what's next, without sacrificing the opportunity you have right now. In a lot of the classes I've had, I tried to push through them and get them out of the way, but looking back, I actually really enjoyed them. This is definitely true in the Honors program - I wish I could go back to Bioethics with Dr. Freeland and Dr. Whetstine!" - Anthony Toskin

# Summer Study Abroad: Museums of Europe

By: Ashli Snider

People say that education broadens your mind and your world. For a few Honors students on this summer's trip to Europe, which included myself, the statement was proven to be very true. In Dr. Rachel Constance's class "Re-Imagining the Grand Tour", students experienced Europe from a 21st Century perspective and an 18th and 19th-century perspective. Over the course of two weeks, we traveled to four cities in Europe: Paris, Florence, Rome, and Nettuno (five if you count the pit stop in Pisa, Italy). Though the cities may have changed in the few centuries spanning this gap, there is something to be said about the similarity of the visitors.

The Grand Tour, a common trip for the children of wealthy families in the 1700s, involved visiting several cities around the European continent, including Paris, Florence, Rome, and other places in the Netherlands and Germany. This trip was taken by British and American citizens alike. While there was only time to visit a few cities this time around, my classmates and I got to step into the shoes of our predecessors and experience the world in a whole new way.



Inside the Louvre Museum, Paris, France

We visited many museums over the course of the trip, as well as incredibly famous places like the Colosseum and the Eiffel Tower. There were some obstacles, like the ever-present language barrier and trying to figure out the public transportation system of Paris and Rome, but the amazing memories we made were worth every hurdle. Read on below for some of our testimonies from the trip.

What was your favorite part of the trip?

"My favorite part of the trip was trying as many different foods as I could, especially the gelato. I miss the gelato."  
- Lexi Perretta

"My favorite part of the trip was hiking through the Versailles Gardens and Palace while we had fun taking photos pretending to be the statues as well as pretending to sign the WWI treaty! Watching the sunset over the garden was magical!" - Hannah Petersen



Sunset at Pizzale Michelangelo, Florence, Italy



# Summer Study Abroad: Museums of Europe (Cont.)

What experience did you learn the most from?

“One experience I learned the most from was when we went to Vatican City and waited outside in the heat for many hours early in the morning to see and hear the Pope. This was amazing, as people from all over the world that day to be blessed by him. The amount of rosaries that were out lifted toward the sky, oh my. I just remember everyone talking and then when the Pope came out everyone became silent - it was mesmerizing that collectively we all stood together and listened to his words (even though we couldn't understand them!)” - Bella Genovese

“Every moment of the Europe trip taught me something new about the world and myself, from the new languages and diverse people we befriended, to the exciting mix of historic and modern architecture and forms of transportation, to having the incredible opportunity to visit some of the most iconic museums and heritage sites in the world. The Musée d'Orsay, in particular, stood out as an incredible learning opportunity. Every wall was filled with some of the most alluring artwork in the world, providing me with the perfect opportunity to learn more about the Impressionist art movement. Every painting and sculpture stood as a testament to human creativity and innovation, and each one captured simple moments of human activity alongside scenes of nature in such a way that they felt like a celebration of finding beauty amidst the commonplace. It was a truly marvelous way to learn!” - Brianna Birkle



Dinner in Rome on the final day

# December Graduate Highlight

Compiled By: Eleanor Mondok

As the Fall 2023 semester comes to a close, we would like to recognize and congratulate our graduating Honors Seniors. They recently presented their final theses, which served as the culmination of their Honors journey.

Graduates, congratulations on your hard work! We wish you the very best in all your future endeavors.



## Allison Dewees

Major: Intervention Specialist (Mild/Moderate, Moderate/Intensive); Minor: Psychology  
Title of Thesis: Parental Involvement in the Development and Implementation of Individualized Education Plans

Future Plans: Allison is currently applying to master's programs for Intervention Specialists.

Advice to Underclassmen: "Keeping in contact with your professors is important. They are there to help you with anything, and to answer even the smallest questions you may have."

Go-to Quote: "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." - John F. Kennedy

Song That Got You through College: "Less like Me" by Zach Williams. "This song always got my thoughts back on track and helped me to feel ready to do anything."



## Riley Kline

Major: AYA Social Studies Education

Title of Thesis: A History and Modern Context of the Amish in Holmes and Wayne County

Future Plans: Riley is looking for a teaching or substitute teaching position at the district where he is currently student teaching. He will also be getting married in July.

Advice to Underclassmen: "Take your time selecting a thesis topic, and make sure it is something that you think will be fun and interesting to research!"

Go-to Quote: "Be quiet, do your work." (Riley is currently student teaching 8th graders)

Song that Got You Through College: "Helplessness Blues" by Fleet Foxes. "This song gives me hope, encouragement, and peace in my station in life. The lyrics remind me that maybe I'm not super significant in the grand scheme of humanity, but that's okay, because I'm a part of significant things."



## Hannah Petersen

Majors: Legal Studies (Business Concentration) & Government and Foreign Affairs

Title of Thesis: Analysis of Marketing in the Indoor Plant Industry

Future Plans: Hannah will be interning with the Leadership Institute in Washington D.C. during the spring, and then plans to attend law school.

Advice to Underclassmen: "Be intentional in what and who you choose to surround yourself with, because they largely influence your habits and choices as you learn and grow."

Go-to Quote: "You do not rise to the level of your goals; you fall to the level of your systems." - Simon Sinek

Song that Got You Through College: "Make Room" by Community Music. "This song is special because it constantly reminds me to surrender all my worries and concerns to God and to make room for God to guide me in the purpose that he has for me."



Students enjoying the Honors social at Kingsway Pumpkin Farm

### Mission

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.



For more information about the Honors Program, please contact Dr. Jennifer Clevinger or Dr. Nina Rytwinski at [honorsdirector@walsh.edu](mailto:honorsdirector@walsh.edu).

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