Annual Report 2014-2015

The Kathwari Honors Director: Christopher L. Kukk, Ph.D.
The Kathwari Honors Student Assistants: Jessica Lin (Poli. Sci.) & Alexis Koukos (Accounting)
The Kathwari Honors Council: Dr. Missy Alexander, Dr. Margaret Astrup, Dr. Carina Bandhauer, Brennen Diaz (student), Dr. Stavros Christofi, Dr. Matthew Dabros, Dr. Michele Ganon, Dr. Bernard Gee, Dr. William Joel, Kimberly Lockwood (student), Dr. Michael Nolan & Dr. Darla Shaw.

Honors Statistics:
Number of Students: 230
Avg. G.P.A.: 3.71
Retention Rate: 96%

Honors Summary:

The 2014-2015 academic year was a foundational year for the Kathwari Honors Program. In April 2015, we officially received a $1 million donation from Mr. & Mrs. Farooq Kathwari (which endowed the Program), formally changed our name to the Kathwari Honors Program at WCSU and celebrated the renaming of Alumni Hall as the Irfan Kathwari Honors House. The Program has grown from 180 to 230 Honors students while maintaining an average G.P.A. of 3.71 over the last year (the average G.P.A. was 3.2 in 2008, when the current director began his tenure). The Kathwari Honors Program has a 96% retention rate and will be graduating its largest class in its history with 29 Honors students as members of WCSU’s Class of 2015. As of the moment, the Kathwari Honors Program has received over
400 applications for 50-75 incoming freshmen slots (an increase of 20-40 incoming students from last year).

**Honors Student Development & Community Activities:**

- Offered 6 Honors courses per semester for all Honors members and accommodated several Honors Enhancements for nursing and education students.
- Assisted with scholarship and graduate school applications as well as internship opportunities.
- More than 20 Honors students participated in Western’s Day of Service on 20 September 2014.
- Organized a trip to New York City in the fall 2014 semester (4 October 2014) to see the critically acclaimed *Les Miserables* Broadway show. This trip, as well as all the trips we organize, was open to all WCSU students.
- Assisted with the Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation’s annual conference called “Compassionate Strategies for Mental Wellness.”
- Hosted documentary day on 24 November 2014 where we showed and then discussed, *Man on Wire*.
- Hosted Trivia Night in Pinney Hall on 2 February 2015.
- Invitation-only tour (Brandeis, University of Florida & WCSU only) of the Verizon Innovation Center in Waltham, MA. The Program coordinated the tour with Dr. Karen Koza of WCSU’s MBA Program.
- Organized a trip on 17 April 2015 for 30 WCSU students to the Bronx Zoo.
- Participated in the WCSU Relay for Life in April 2015.

**Honors Recruiting & Outreach:**

- Participated in all June 2014 orientation days.
- Provided a workshop called the “Inspiring Teachers Talk” for over 50 high school teachers on 14 July 2015 in Stratford, CT for the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Foundation’s Day of Empowerment for Teachers.
• Provided the keynote address at the Cooperating Teachers Summer Academy on 16 July 2014 in Farmington, CT to over 300 high school teachers and administrators.

• Participated in Clubs Carnival on 27 August 2014 to attract students to the program.

• From August 2014 through May 2015, the Kathwari Honors Office interviews applicants and processes their applications. In addition, we coordinate with the coaches of several of WCSU athletic teams to bring scholar-athletes to the Honors Program.

• Participated in WCSU’s Open House.

• Provided a workshop on 30 March 2015 for the top Greenwich High School students and their advisors in the AVID Program titled “The Challenges & Advantages of Higher-Ed.”

• Coordinated with WCSU’s Office of Admission an Honors Brunch during Accepted Students Day (11 April 2015) to provide information about the advantages of the Kathwari Honors Program to eligible students by G.P.A. and SAT scores.