



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Honors College



## Message from the Dean

One of the most rewarding aspects of being dean is connecting with our alumni. Listening to their stories about WSU, celebrating their achievements, and witnessing the impact they continue to make in the world is incredibly inspiring.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting with Marissa Chukwu, an Honors College alumna from the class of 2018. Marissa's journey to becoming a Cougar is nothing short of extraordinary. Growing up in Nigeria, there was little expectation that she would attend college. In fact, after finishing grade school, if she even got that far, she would have been expected to get married and start a family.

But Marissa had other plans. She was determined not only to go to college but to study in the United States. Despite having no reliable internet access and frequent power outages in Nigeria, Marissa's ambition remained steadfast. She would walk to the U.S. Embassy to consult a thick book that listed all the colleges in the U.S. with pictures of each campus. One set of images captured her imagination: Washington State University.

Fast forward a couple of years, and Marissa arrived in Pullman with little more than hope—no money, nowhere to stay, and no class schedule. With the support of student services, she found housing, secured a job, and began her pre-med studies in Zoology. Despite working several jobs, Marissa finished her first year with straight A's. At the suggestion of her academic advisor, she explored the Honors College and joined us the following semester, meeting with Robin Bond and embracing all that Honors had to offer.

Marissa thrived at WSU, and her college experience was a resounding success. After graduation, she pursued her medical career, choosing to become a nurse rather than a physician. Her decision was affirmed as she worked as an ICU nurse in Manhattan during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she and her colleagues were the first line of defense. Today, Marissa is part of a highly selective cardiac ICU training program at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. She works tirelessly, often 100 hours per week, and volunteers with underserved populations in Brooklyn, sharing critical health skills like taking blood pressure measurements or administering diabetes shots.

Marissa embodies the values we strive to instill in our Honors College students—a commitment to excellence and a dedication to serving others. Thank you to all our alumni for everything you do to

continue this legacy. Go Cougs!

M. Grant Norton  
Dean of the Honors College

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## 2024 NCHC Portz Scholar for Outstanding Research



### Clara Krause Named 2024 NCHC Portz Scholar for Outstanding Research

We are thrilled to announce that Clara Krause has been named one of the four 2024 Portz Scholars by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)! This prestigious award is given annually to the top undergraduate honors students nationwide for their outstanding research and academic achievements.

Clara's thesis, "The Matrix Building: A History of Resilience," was selected as the sole submission from WSU to represent our university in this highly competitive national competition.

[Continue Reading...](#)

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### Michael Schultheis: "The Flowers of Fibonacci," exhibition



We are thrilled to share an exciting opportunity with you! Michael Schultheis, a WSU and Honors College alum, is unveiling his latest body of work, "The Flowers of Fibonacci," at Winston Wächter Fine Art in Seattle. This exhibition promises to be a unique exploration of mathematics and art that you won't want to miss.

**Come and ....**

- Celebrate a Fellow Alum: Michael Schultheis' work has been celebrated for its innovative fusion of geometry and expressionism.
- Be Inspired: Engage with thought-provoking pieces that explore the beauty of the Fibonacci sequence through art.

**Event Details:**

- **Exhibition Dates:** August 29 – October 16
- **Artist Talk:** Saturday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m.

**Location:**

Winston Wächter Fine Art

203 Dexter Ave N

Seattle, WA 98109

206.652.5855

gallery@winstonwachter.com

Stay connected with Michael's work on Instagram: @MichaelSchultheisArt or visit [www.MichaelSchultheis.com](http://www.MichaelSchultheis.com).

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## Honors College Homecoming Open House



# Homecoming Honors



# OPEN HOUSE



## OCTOBER . 19TH . 2024

Where: Elmina White  
Honors Hall Lounge

Time: TBD



The Honors College would like to welcome our Honors Cougs and family home before the game!  
Time will be determined based on kickoff , RSVP to follow .

### Upcoming Events

LEAP | Oct. 3, 2024

Homecoming Open House | Oct. 19, 2024

Honors Commencement | Dec. 6, 2024

## Honors is back online!



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