

# THE SCHOLAR

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## Welcome New Honors Members! Spring 2024 Introductions

The Spring 2024 Semester has seen many additions to the Honors Club. We wanted to give our new arrivals a chance to introduce themselves. Please take some time to read over these introductions and prepare to meet each other on campus.

### Sophie Kepling

My name is Sophie Kepling and I am currently majoring in the Education Transfer Concentration program. I graduated from Otsego High School in 2023, in which I also attended Penta Career Center in the Early Childhood Program. Not only did I have a focus on academics, but I also had a focus on extracurriculars such as bowling, softball, student ambassador and being a state officer for the CTSO FCCLA. My career goal is to become a Family Consumer Sciences teacher for either middle school or high school students.



### Alanna Lane

Alanna Lane can be shy and awkward in her shell in the first couple of meetings, but once she's collaborative and determined, she'll grow to be a big ball of goofiness! She would describe herself as organized, dedicated and humorous. She graduated from Sylvania Southview High School and continues to focus on Psychology at Owens'. The inspiration behind that educational path came from the fun she had in her General Psychology class her junior year of high school. Over the years, she's not only grown to be intrigued by the behavior of people and social psychology, she's passionate about music and traveling! When her head isn't clouded in her studies, she likes listening to music, writing poems/songs, working out and hanging out with her two best friends once they're free and back in town.



### Chalisa Rocker

My name is Chalisa Rocker, I am a student here at Owens Community College majoring in Psychology. I am grateful and honored to be able to fulfill my purpose and follow the path that God has set out for me. I am a motivational speaker, a writer and also I do spoken word. I enjoy using my voice for the voiceless, in hopes it gives them courage to use their voice as I have found mine!



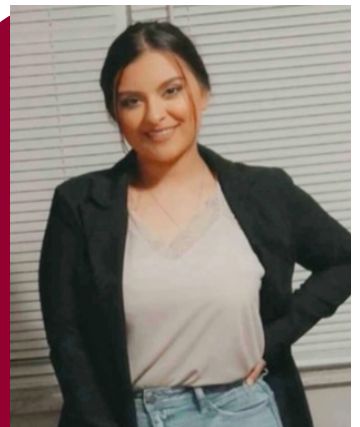
### Wes Nelson

My name is Wes Nelson. I am 31 years old, a father of three, and enrolled in the Business Transfer Program. I am planning to transfer to the University of Florida once I have finished the program here at Owens. I want to open businesses including residential and commercial property management companies. I am a very curious person and I pride myself on my love of learning and creativity. I look forward to what is to come this semester. Despite all the horridness of the pandemic, the last four years have been the most interesting I have ever experienced. We sit at an intersection of rapidly expanding technology and rapidly evolving social change. I think the next ten years will be full of opportunities and I look forward to taking advantage of them and making a place to distinguish myself in the world.



### Erika Reyes

My name is Erika Reyes. I am 26 years old and I am in my second semester at Owens Community College. My major is Paralegal, I plan to acquire a job in that field after graduation, although I am considering continuing my education into Pre-law. Outside of school, I have a six year old daughter, who has been my motivation to see this through and continue being academically successful. So one day she understands that education does not have to stop when you graduate high school and how lucky we are to be able to further our education as women. I also have a Siamese cat who is quite literally my second child, her name is Sassy and her name definitely suits her. I am so excited to have the opportunity to not only be more involved with Owens and the community but I am also grateful to be a part of the Honors Program.



### Henry Thomas

Hello! I'm Henry Thomas, a student doing CCP at Owens. I have a profound interest in government, politics, and philosophy. I am going for an associates in political science. A fun fact about me is that I have two cats. Their names are Dr. Doom and Senator Toebeans. Both of their personalities fit their names.





Jennifer Lesko

Hello, I'm Jennifer Lesko, currently enrolled in the Culinary Art program, I'm pursuing both a Baking and Pastry Certificate and an Event Planning certificate. Alongside my academic endeavors, I proudly own a small business where I produce and manufacture my own signature Barbeque Sauce which is called Duncan's Code 3. My partner and I have 4 sauces, they are Original, Sweet & Tangy, Hot Zone, and Rescue Down. Rescue Down is our low sugar and Diabetic friendly sauce. Our sauces are sold locally and online. As I anticipate my graduation in December, I look forward to completing the Culinary Art Program and Baking and Pastry certificate. Additionally, I'm gearing up for the Event Planning certificate in the Spring of 2025. Beyond my culinary pursuits, I find joy in exploring the scenic beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains during our breaks. I also enjoy attending the Toastmaster International from time to time which is a nonprofit educational organization that builds confidence and teaches public speaking skills through a worldwide network of clubs that meet online and in person.



C.J. Boggs

Hello, I'm C.J. Boggs. I am happily married, and I have 4 children. I am a first-generation student in my second semester here at Owens, and I am majoring in Community and Family Services. I joined the Honors program to show my children that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. On top of school, I also work at the Findlay campus as a Connection Mentor. After school I would like to work in an adoption agency to help children and parents alike with the adoption process. I have a passion to help people in need, and I am determined to make the world a better place.



Student Activities

I ❤️ Owens

When attending college, it is easy to get swept up in the work from courses and extracurriculars. It is important to take time to appreciate the experiences and opportunities that come from our campus. The I ❤️ Owens event is a chance to express what you enjoy most about the college. Come to stuff a teddy bear, dress it with a tiny Owens T-Shirt, and get a free candy bar! While you're there, write what you enjoy about Owens on a paper heart.

February 14, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Heritage Hall 123

Oregon Road Film Series – Feature Film Showing: Wind River

The campus continues to explore the themes of the 2023-2024 BIG Read book; *Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land* by Toni Jensen. Join Owens staff for a viewing of the film *Wind River*, which displays the challenges of a wildlife officer trying solve the case of an indigenous woman who went missing on a Wyoming reservation. Open discussions will be held as we seek to analyze how and why these kind of tragedies occur.

February 21, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
College Hall 100



BIG Read Book Club

Come join fellow Owens students to discuss *Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land* by Toni Jensen. The meeting is open to anyone interested in sharing their reading experience with this insightful novel.

February 15, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
College Hall 117

Owens Honors Staff

- Michael Sander

Honors Program Dean
- Dr. Genesis Downey

Honors Program Director, Honors Professor
- Dr. Mohammed Elnahal

Honors Mentor, School of Liberal Arts
- Mary Kaczinski

Honors Mentor, School of STEM
- Janine Rosenthal

Honors Mentor, School of Business, Hospitality Management, & Public Safety
- Jami Williamson, MS, CSCS, TSAC-F

Honors Mentor, School of Nursing and Health Professions
- Denise Grupp-Verbon

Honors Program Internship Manger
- Jennifer Hazel

Honors Professor





The Arts on Campus

Art Exhibition: Gratitude by Tamara Monk

Tamara is a local artist operating out of Bowling Green, Ohio. Her works include Oil Paint, Watercolor, and Mixed Media. She has studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art (BFA) and BGSU (MFA). She was a painting and drawing instructor and adjunct at BGSU for 23 years, as well as a part time instructor at Lourdes University and our very own Owens Community College for several years. Her artwork is featured in permanent collections at the Toledo Art Museum and the BGSU Foundation. On her pieces, she has said “I hope they convey the wonder, mystery, joy, and gratitude following this path has allowed me to embrace.

Jan 15 - Mar 22  
Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery

Gallery Hours:  
Monday & Wednesday: 11 am - 7:30 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am - 7:30 pm  
Friday: 11 am - 3 pm



Deep Lake by Tamara Monk

2024 Passages Juried High School Art Show

Local high school student artists who work in fine art, photography, commercial art, video, and animation have been given a chance to display their work at “Passages“, an OCC art show. This show is juried by campus visual arts faculty who award prizes at the opening reception. Aside from the chance to see their work presented in a juried art exhibit, high school students may be awarded with the Owens Community College Merit Scholarship for their exemplary work in the field of visual arts. Through this event, our college helps young artists begin their careers.

February 2 - March 29  
Rotunda of the Center for Fine and Performing Arts Building



Spring 2024 Student Production:

Auditions for Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812

Owens students will be performing their own rendition of the Broadway musical *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. Auditions for cast roles will begin this month and staff are seeking 5-8 men and 5-8 women to participate in this grand production. This 19th century technopop opera, created by Dave Malloy, is based on sections from Leo Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*. The story explores existential crises in the midst of a war torn Moscow. Whether you are interested in participating or viewing, these are dates you will want to save.

Auditions: February 12, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Showing: April 18-20, 7:30 pm and April 21, 3 pm  
The Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts

Accent on the Arts: Ellie Martin Quartet

Ellie Martin is a vocal jazz performer as well as a jazz instructor at the University of Toledo and Toledo School for the Arts. This month she will be performing on campus and admission is free!

February 22, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Center for Fine and Performing Arts Theatre

Owens Honors Club

Justin Abner

President, Environmental Science

Cortnie Fogo

Vice President, Registered Nurse Program

Amber Kear

Secretary, Psychology

Korie Buxton-Ray

Treasurer, Registered Nurse Program