



Friends of Wesley Newsletter

July 2024

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

WESLEY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Caden Chamness, peer minister

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering; The Grainger College of Engineering. Future plans: Working at a company manufacturing solid oxide fuel cells.

Garrett Forrest, peer minister

B.A. in Political Science; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Future plans: Working as a court advocate for those needing assistance in navigating the legal system and beginning law school in Fall 2025.

Liz LeBeau, peer minister

B.A. in Political Science and English with a minor in Legal Studies; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Future plans: Moving to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to work as an Operations Specialist at a pharmaceutical company and attending law school sometime in the future.

Mindy Leek, peer minister

B.A. in Agriculture, Leadership, Education, & Communications; College of ACES. Future plans: To work in advertising and marketing.

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Caden Chamness



Garrett Forrest



Liz LeBeau



Mindy Leek

WESLEY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (continued)

Shash Gunalan, volunteer peer minister

B.S. in Clinical Psychology; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Future plans: Returning to Malaysia for one year, then attending grad school to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with research focused on autism spectrum disorders.

Olivia Hanson, Wesley desk worker

B.S. in Communication with a minor in Public Relations; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Future plans: Working this summer as an assistant manager at a pool in Quincy, IL, while looking for a long-term position.

CHANCEL CHOIR GRADUATES

Isaiah Calaranan

Bachelor of Music Education; U of I School of Music

Future plans: To live and work in the Chicago area.

Lauren Harper

Bachelor of Music Education; U of I School of Music

Future plans: To live and work in the Chicago area.

Nathan Tilton

Bachelor of Music/Vocal Performance; U of I School of Music

Future plans: To live and work in the Chicago area.



WESLEY FOOD PANTRY GRADUATES

Katrina Overfield

B.S. in Finance; Gies College of Business

Future plans: Working full-time in Chicago while growing the base of her own business.

Angelina Greico

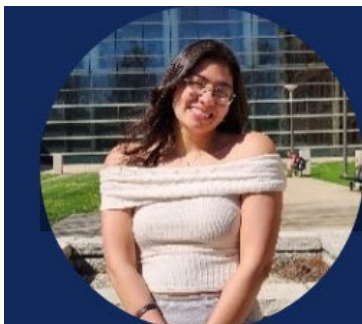
B.S. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, concentration in Health and Aging; College of Applied Health Sciences.

Future Plans: Attending UIC College of Dentistry beginning in Fall 2024

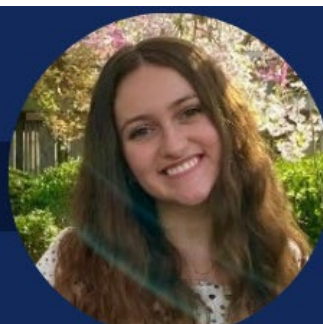
Lauren Hager

B.S. in Community Health, concentration in Health Education and Promotion; College of Applied Health Sciences.

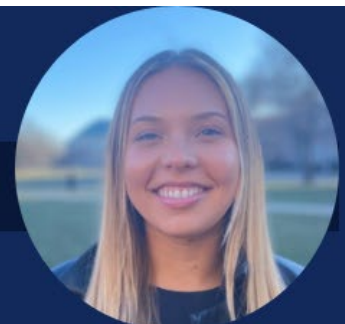
Future Plans: Becoming a Registered Behavior Technician for young children with developmental delays and disorders in the Chicago area.



Katrina Overfield



Angelina Greico



Lauren Hager

WESLEY FOOD PANTRY GRADUATES (continued)

Kate Karaman,

B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Future plans: applying for graduate programs.

Noah Flores Velasco

B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Future plans: starting a job as a manufacturing process engineer for Proctor and Gamble.

WESLEY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Asif Ali

Master of Bioinformatics: Crop Sciences; College of ACES

Future plans: Beginning Fall 2024, pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland to develop vaccines.

Phani Datta

Master of Computer Science; Grainger College of Engineering. Future plans: Continue working as a Research Assistant with a professor in the TIMAN Research Laboratory and volunteering at Wesley.

OTHER GRADUATES CONNECTED TO WESLEY

Kenny Smallhorn, former peer minister and seminary intern

Master of Divinity (MDiv); Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

To send a note of congratulations to Kenny: 1032 Lincoln Ct. Ave NE, Atlanta, GA, 30329

Rev. Dr. Jess LeCrone, former associate pastor

Doctor of Ministry; Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN

Future plans: Continue pastoring churches in NE while searching for opportunities in academia.

To send a note of congratulations to Jess: 36 Dorrance St., Danielson, CT, 06239.



Phani Datta



Kenny Smallhorn



Jess LeCrone

We are so proud of your accomplishments and send our heartiest congratulations to each of you. May God bless you richly along your life's journey as you take your next steps, find new adventures, and continue to become who God is calling you to be.

Barrington Coleman steps down as Director of Choral Music

Dr. Barrington Coleman, long-time Director of Choral Music at Wesley UMC, decided to step down from his role effective Sunday, June 23. With a planned sabbatical from the University of Illinois in 2025 and retirement on the horizon, Dr. Coleman wanted the timing of his departure to best serve the interests of our congregation. With the summer months before us, he felt we would have the time to move forward with new leadership prior to the 2024-2025 academic year.



We celebrated Dr. Coleman’s long tenure with us on Sunday, June 23.

He invited special musical guests to join him in offering his final “Jazz Sunday” by blessing us once more with his abundant musical gifts and humble spirit. You can watch a recording on the Wesley YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/live/ZJYr81bPLY>

On behalf of his wife of 36 years, Cynthia, and his two young adult sons, Crofton and Camden, Dr. Coleman has expressed his deep love and appreciation for our congregation.

He writes, “We were blessed to raise our family around a loving circle of support and exemplary examples of kindness, constant support, and prayers around our challenges and triumphs, with inspired leadership among clergy and members which continues to hold us up! This expression of my spiritual joy and love has been the mission, purpose, and inspiration for my music-making and sharing over my years of Wesley affiliation since approx. 2008.

“Although my affiliation would indeed be associated with our musical profile, our family soon discovered that the core of our connection to Wesley was soul-based. The numerous opportunities for us to grow as a family with the intervention, introspection, and direct involvement from countless Wesley brothers and sisters, provided a Christian home for our family to thrive outside of our professions, and offer our authentic selves to an environment of true kindness, acceptance, inclusion, and unselfish love.

“Over the years of personal and societal challenges, the models of friendship, prayer, sacrifice, and scriptural truth have been effectively shared from our ministerial team – currently led by Pastor David Fuquay, formerly under the leadership of Pastor Daniel King Crede, associate ministers and past clergy, coordinators of Wesley’s many missions and outreach programs, volunteers, student community, and our beloved music ministry contributors.

“Your ministry with God at the center literally held us up and gave us hope in all circumstances. Through our celebrations, sorrows, and many transitions, our Wesley family embraced our nuclear family, whether recognizing worship service reunions with my mother, our occasional out-of-town family visitors, to sharing the impact of countless special moments for our household. It always made an incredible difference and lasting impression on us as parents, to know that kind, giving, voices of wisdom throughout Wesley would take time when my wife and I were unaware, to encourage, witness, and hold our sons to a high standard of expectation in their development as maturing young men in Christ.”

Wesley Summer International Programs

Wesley's Summer ESL Classes and International Coffee House are in full swing! The ESL classes meet every Friday from 3 PM to 4 PM, in the Wesley Conference Room. The classes are fun and engaging, suitable for learners at various levels. All international students, families, and scholars are welcome.

The International Coffee House meets every Friday from 4 PM to 6 PM in the Etc. Coffeehouse. This is a wonderful opportunity to chat, make new friends, play table games, and enjoy snacks and drinks in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Already this summer our international students have volunteered at Sola Gratia Farm, helped youth fly kites, and more!

Provide Snacks for International Coffeehouse through Amazon

Your contribution of snacks or drinks would truly enhance this fellowship time and create a memorable experience for all attendees. Please purchase snacks from our Amazon wish list (<https://a.co/hwIWJ6Y>) to be delivered to us directly or reach out to Yiwon at yiwon@wesleyui.org. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering being a part of this enriching experience!



ESL, International Coffeehouse, and Volunteering at Sola Gratia Farm

Congratulations

Congratulations to Wesley Alum and former Board of Trustees member, The Rev. Tabi Nelson, who was ordained as an Elder in Full Connection at the Illinois Great Rivers Conference session in June.



Staff Positions Available at Wesley

Help us spread the word! We are looking for several key part-time staff positions to join our Wesley Team:

- Director of Music
- Director of Communications
- Director of Outreach/Guest Services

These positions will contribute to the ministries of both the Church and Foundation and are vital pieces in our strategy for growth under our restructured budget. Word-of-Mouth is our best search tool. Please help us share these opportunities with anyone you know who may be interested in the Champaign-Urbana area.

All open positions are posted on our website: wesleyui.org/employment

Save the Date! Organ Centennial Celebration

We are proud to present **Katelyn Emerson** who will kick-off our Centennial Organ Celebration with a concert on **Friday, September 20, 2024**. She is internationally renowned for performances throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Our Skinner Pipe Organ will turn 100 in 2025. We will be celebrating throughout the academic year by hosting a number of guest organists, many with deep connections to Wesley.

We are so blessed to have his great instrument and a community who appreciates and supports it. *Right: Lanson Demming playing the E.M. Skinner organ at Smith Hall in the 1930s before it was moved to Wesley.*





What's Your Rainbow Score?

Did you know that the color of a fruit or vegetable has a lot to do with the nutrients it contains? Eating a variety of different colors can boost your health by making sure you're getting vitamins, nutrients, and plenty of fiber. Over the summer, Wesley Food Pantry will be giving itself a weekly **RAINBOW SCORE**, a scale from 1-5 representing how many of five colors we had available for our guests each week.

- **Red** – reds contain lycopene and are found in tomatoes, beets, radishes, strawberries, and red onions or peppers
- **Orange/yellow** – contain carotenoids. Good sources are carrots, sweet potato, mango, peaches, oranges, and (Dawn's favorite) pumpkin.
- **Green** – you'll find vitamin K, potassium, antioxidants and folic acid in greens like spinach, broccoli, avocado, asparagus, fresh herbs, and kale
- **Blue/Purple** – High in antioxidants! Try blueberries, eggplant, figs, grapes and plums to get your blue/purple.
- **White/Brown** – onions, mushrooms, cauliflower, and garlic contain flavonoids called allicin as well as vitamins C & K. Mushrooms contain vitamin D, which is not common in other plants.

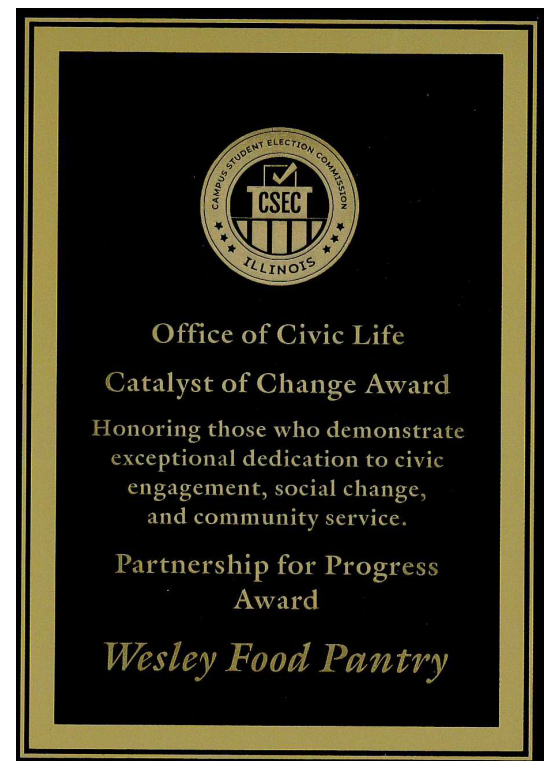
Be sure to follow us on Facebook (@wesleyfoodpantry) or Instagram (@wesleypantry) to see a weekly update on our Rainbow Score. If you're playing along, comment with your own score!

Partnership for Progress Award

Wesley Food Pantry is honored to receive recognition from the University of Illinois' Office of Civic Life with a Catalyst of Change award in the category of Partnership for Progress:

The Partnership for Progress Award recognizes a community organization or partner who has demonstrated outstanding collaboration and support in advancing the goals of the Office of Civic Life while enhancing community engagement opportunities for university students. This award celebrates a partner who has made significant contributions to the success of community-based initiatives and programs.

Illini Fighting Hunger facilitates rice and meal packaging events as part of the Wesley Foundation Student Center. IFH was also recognized with a Community Impact award: The Community Impact Award recognizes a Registered Student Organization (RSO) that has significantly contributed to the local community through their engagement initiatives. This recognition celebrates individuals or groups who have shown commitment to addressing community needs and fostering positive change.



Budget Update

Wesley United Methodist Church & Foundation Student Center			
Income and Expenses through May 31, 2024			
<u>Foundation</u>		<u>Church</u>	
Income:		Income:	
Gifts to Operating Fund	\$ 18,767	Tithes & Offerings	\$ 170,311
IGRC Support	\$ 54,893	Loose Plate Offering	\$ 994
Building Use	\$ 11,164	Parking Lot Income	\$ 4,673
Gifts to Building Improvement	\$ 2,500		
Gifts to Etc. Coffeehouse	\$ 4,219		
Total Income	\$ 91,543	Total Income	\$ 175,978
Expense:		Expense:	
Staff	\$ 208,781	Staff	\$ 169,824
Administrative Expense	\$ 13,596	Administrative Expense	\$ 11,260
Program Expense	\$ 32,873	Program Expense	\$ 5,529
Building Expense	\$ 75,400	Building Expense	\$ 23,576
Building Improvement	\$ 11,477	Apportionments	\$ 22,515
Total Expense	\$ 342,127	Total Expense	\$ 232,704
Surplus/(Deficit-transferred from reserve	\$ (250,585)	Surplus/(Deficit-transferred from reserve	\$ (56,727)
(Budgeted transfers for 2024=\$128,279)		(Budgeted transfers for 2024=\$138,299)	

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Your gifts to the Wesley Foundation are the keys to unlocking our future growth and vitality. Thank you for the support you have provided so far this year! In the first six months of 2024, we have 25 new or reactivated donors to give to the Foundation who have helped us reach our goals for the spring semester. We are confident that your prayers and support will carry our campus ministry through the remainder of the year.

This summer, our staff and student leaders are preparing to launch our ministries for the fall semester, seeking to reach new students in new ways through outreach, worship, study, and service. Your commitment to Wesley through the second half of this year will support those efforts and allow us to invest more time and energy in building our community and making a difference in the lives of those on-campus.

If you haven't yet made your financial contributions to Wesley in 2024, or you have the capacity to increase your giving, please know how important you are as part of our Wesley community. Our mission and ministry belong to all who are a part of Wesley as students, staff, alumni, church members, musicians, parents, and volunteers.

For your convenience, you can give securely online: <https://www.wesleyui.org/giving>, or by mailing your contribution to our office at 1203 West Green St. Urbana, IL 61801.