

Student Profile: Kirsten Sumampong

First-year dives head-first into the Honors community

BY VANESSA EVELETH

Walking into Nunemaker, you might have met the new events coordinator for the Honors college. Kirsten Sumampong ('25), a first-year student pursuing neuroscience, has already established herself in Honors activities. Her immediate involvement is a sign of promise for what Sumampong might contribute to Westminster College.

"Through Sunday Study Nights, I've been able to really get involved with the Honors college," Sumampong said. "And I've been able to see what happens behind the scenes with Steph [Santarosa], Richard [Badenhausen], and Davor [Simunovic]." Sumampong also explained that she has enjoyed the opportunity to see her classmates outside of the academic sphere. "I get to know a little bit more about the Westminster community."

Being engaged is not a new concept for Sumampong. "In high school, I was really involved with basically everything," Sumampong said. "I did campus life, which is equivalent to ASW, and I did Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Saints and Scholars." Sumampong grew up in Draper, Utah and went to Juan Diego Catholic High School.

An interesting tidbit: Sumampong is not the first person in her family to attend Westminster. In fact, she has four siblings who can call themselves Griffins.

Westminster's intimate community environment played a big role in her decision to attend the college: "I knew that Westminster, like the Honors college specifically, would have drawn in that same type of community," Sumampong said. "Especially with [students] taking similar courses, yet still having different types of majors and different kinds of walks of life joining together for one cause."



Kirsten Sumampong (She/Her), stands by Nunemaker.

Photo courtesy Abigale Winter

For Sumampong, the Peer Mentoring Program has highlighted and supported her transition to college. During New Student Orientation, it was important for Sumampong to "just have people who were experienced and understood what it was like to be an incoming Honors student. But then, also, the opportunities that we've had to kind of interact with [peer mentors] at Tuesday Conversations, or even just in passing, [helps to] kind of know that you have someone to look out for you."

Across campus, Sumampong hopes to stay involved. For one, she plans to engage with the Student Diversity and Inclusion Center and to support the lacrosse program. "I definitely want to be involved with another campus job, in someplace that's totally not usual for me," Sumampong said. "What that looks like I have no idea, but I feel like that might be a good way for me to see different types of people and also get involved in other types of things." **HM.**