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Honors Program Newsletter

A Time to Be Grateful

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Welcome!

By: Presler Maxius, Chair

Greetings. My name is Presler Maxius; I am Chair of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB). I hope your semester is going well. If your midterms did not go well, the best advice I can offer is to put them behind you. Finals will be here faster than a TGV (the French high-speed train); so the last thing you want is having to take your finals while you are mourning your midterm grades.

We have put a lot of efforts into planning and executing events for the HP community this semester. We also enjoy the high turnout rates of the past events. The major event we have coming up is the Guest Lecture Series. Please come out and support. We enjoyed planning it for you and want you to enjoy the experience with us as well.

The holiday season is coming up, and this year, I am looking forward to the multiple plates I am going to eat; while enjoying my Thanksgiving dinner with family, I will remember what I am grateful for. As papers and exams consume most of your time towards the end of the semester, remember to be grateful to your family and call to let them know you love them. It will go a long way. I am also happy to share a quote from my mom that I hope you can appreciate its' meaning as well.

*“Byen mal pa
lanmò.”*

“Not well is not death.”

My mom uses this quote to make me feel better when things are not going well. She normally says it's bad, it can get worse, but it will get better.

Meet Our Newest HPSAB Member



Arin Blake
Public Liaison
Years in HP: 1
Years in HPSAB: 1st semester

Why I joined HPSAB:

I joined HPSAB to become more active in my academic and social communities. I believe that being on HPSAB is a great opportunity to invest in my future while also improving my overall college experience.

HP Alumni: Where Are They Now?



Alekzander Sayers entered the Honors Program in Fall 2012 and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from Barry University in May 2016. His Senior Honors Thesis title was “The Transformative Power of Theatre:

The Experience of Live Theatre Versus the Written Word.” Alek also served on HPSAB (2013-2016) as Secretary (2014) and as Chair (2014-2016). We heard from Alex in late Summer of this year on what he’s been up to since graduation from Barry. Here is what he had to say:

“The past year has been a busy and fulfilling one for me as an actor and teaching artist! Two days after graduation I flew home to Brewer, Maine and began rehearsals for my first professional show after

graduation, *Rock of Ages*. It was produced at Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor, Maine. They are the northernmost professional theatre company in Maine. Over the past year I was hired by the same company as an actor and fight director for their holiday production of *Oliver*. As I write this in July, I am currently in performances for the final weekend of *The Full Monty*, and they have also hired me to perform in their upcoming holiday production of *Beauty and the Beast*. They keep me busy up here!

Between the jobs I’ve had as an actor, I’ve worked as a director and set designer for my old high school and middle school. I’ve also taught acting workshops to local home school groups, and work during the day as a substitute teacher and ice cream truck driver.

I’ve done a fair bit of traveling this past year! I spent ten days between Boston and New York reconnecting with old friends, seeing professional theatre, and auditioning for various companies. I also went to Washington DC for three days to participate in the March for Science. It was my first time in our nation’s capital, it was a super cool experience!

The future is looking great for me but I do miss Barry. Enjoy your time and work hard, it’ll go by quicker than you can ever imagine!”

HP Alumni: Where Are They Now? *Cont.*



Kevin Dalia

entered the Honors Program in Spring 2014 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Law from Barry University in May 2017; his Senior Honors thesis title was

Zombies: The American Response to a Disease Outbreak. Kevin also served on HPSAB (as Secretary in 2015 and as HPSAB Chair from 2016-2017). Read about Kevin and his adjustment to law school below:

“It’s great to hear from you guys. I would love to keep receiving the updates on what HPSAB is doing. I am currently in San Francisco at Golden Gate University School of Law. I have just been keeping up with my law school studies.

Law school is exhausting. At Barry, I could get away with not doing all of the readings, quickly cramming

before tests, and still keep up roughly a 3.85 GPA. In law school, it is absolutely necessary to do every reading because you are likely to get cold called in class. Half the battle is memorizing the rules that judicial precedent set. The more important half is applying these rules to the facts of the case. In law school, you should expect to be at school until 7:00 or 8:00 pm doing homework. At Barry, classes were pretty easy but I took on a lot of extracurricular activities so I grew accustomed to the long hours which made the adjustment to law school very easy. My law school is a small university, like Barry, so the faculty are nice and very helpful just like Barry. However, they assign homework before you even have your first day of class. I was surprised when meeting my peers. Many people actually take a break between undergrad and law school so I’m often the youngest person. It’s kind of funny because many people assume I’m in my late 20’s or early 30’s because of how I carry myself. The classes are also graded competitively. A professor can only give out so many A’s and has to grade students in respect to each other. Overall, I think I’m doing pretty well. Many of the other students seem to be struggling with the material but I have a pretty good grasp of it.



Sean Cooney entered the Honors Program in Fall 2009 and graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and Finance from Barry University in May 2012. His Senior Honors Thesis title was “Evaluating the Efficiency of Frontier Equity Markets in Caribbean Economies.” Sean also served on HPSAB as Chair from August 2010 until May 2012. Sean is now an Associate in Mergers & Acquisitions, Bank of Montreal (BMO) Capital Markets. Here is the latest from Sean:

“I transferred within BMO from Energy, Investment Banking in Calgary to the Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) group in Toronto in January of 2016. I’ve really enjoyed the move to Toronto—it’s a great city and also the country’s financial center.

Since transferring, I was promoted from Analyst to Associate in July 2016. As a part of my promotion, I was given the opportunity to take a 4-week vacation which I took in September of 2016, visiting: Indonesia (Bali and Gili Islands), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Cambodia (Siem Reap), Vietnam (Hanoi and Sapa) and Hong Kong. My girlfriend Alice met with me in Vietnam and for the remainder of the trip (I previously had travelled solo). From the town of Sappa in Vietnam, we hiked Mount Fansipan, which is the tallest mountain in Indochina. This past summer I was one of the lead organizers of BMO’s Global Investment & Corporate Banking (I&CB) Orientation Program. Approximately 90 new hires at the Analyst and Associate level from Canada, America, UK, China and Australia were in Toronto for four weeks to receive new hire training.”

Events Calendar



As a growing body of evidence points toward the relationship between global warming and the impact of the formation and severity of hurricanes, there are things that we can do to better prepare for future storms. Two panelists will speak on topics related to Hurricane Irma and its aftermath.

Join the Honors Program’s Fall Guest Lecture Series to learn about the economic impact of Hurricane Irma in South Florida and the Monroe County’s building codes and compliances for the Florida Keys.

HP Buddy System

In our October 2017 issue, the Honors Program and HPSAB introduced a Buddy System in which all HP members are able to keep in touch and communicate in case of emergencies or help. Below are the names of each of the HPSAB members who will be reaching out and keeping in touch. Feel free to reach out to us too! We are here to help each other and support each other, like a second family. If you need anything, have any questions, or just want to share something, we welcome an opportunity to hear from each of you. We at HPSAB are students just like you and do not bite. So, don’t be afraid to reply to our messages or text/email us anytime.

Chantel Drysdale	Arin Blake	Presler Maxius	Nina Escalante	Abigail Solorzano
Vania Arboleda Maegan Cuesta Kailyn Belle Isle Lauren Hall	Kristina Filimonova Alayna Gallagher Paola Montenegro	David Rodriguez Nicole Rafols Johania Charles Stefan Jugmohan	Sofia De la Puente Isaac Sellers Taylor Checkley	Rebecca Johnson Erica Cruz Emily Witkowski

HP Mandatory New Student Orientation



On October 5th, we hosted our Mandatory New Student Orientation. This is a time for our HP Director to impart a few words of encouragement to all members and remind new members of their requirements and commitments to the program. The current HP members also had a chance to share a few words of advice with the new HP members. We thank you all for taking time out of your schedules to meet with us, we greatly appreciate your involvement. If you ever have any questions about the program, feel free to contact our program director, Dr. Sirimangkala at psirimangkala@barry.edu.

HP Game Night

The Honors Program hosted its annual game night on Thursday, October 26th.

The purpose of our game night is to get students and faculty to interact in a more relaxed setting. Pictured here are those in attendance, along with the professors of our History and Philosophy of Science class, Dr. Lubomir Markov and Dr. John Goehl. Thank you for showing up when we know you are very busy!

We'd like to thank Dr. Sirimangkala for all food arrangements and the HP members who brought their board games for all to enjoy!



Join us next time! We're a crazy bunch. ☺

Senior Honors Thesis Orientation

Each Fall term, a mandatory thesis orientation is held. HP students who are currently enrolled in HON 479H and those who are working on their Senior Honors Thesis are required to attend the thesis orientation. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss thesis related information, including various deadlines, thesis defense protocol, thesis binding, thesis information to appear in the commencement program, and the thesis title's word limit on the final transcript. The Fall 2017's thesis orientation took place on October 11, 2017. Those in attendance were Vania Arboleda, Alayna Gallagher, Paola Montenegro, and Rhasheda Weir. The May 2018 seniors reported on the status of their thesis proposal and the December 2017 graduating seniors reported on the status of their thesis. Presler Maxius, who successfully defended his Senior Honors Thesis in May 2017, also attended the meeting to share some tips to these HP seniors.

Why Am I Grateful?

In the month of November, we see the holiday spirit gradually seeping into the hearts of everyone. Yet, as we see the peppermint mochas and pumpkin spice lattes make their way onto our menus, we shouldn't push aside an important date celebrated in November—Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day is not only a time to relax before finals and be with family, but it is a time to meditate on all the blessings we have. So, here are what some of the Honors Program students have to say about why they're thankful.

"I am most thankful for my family who loves and supports me in everything I do and aspire to become. They are the most important people in my life and, to me, all that matters is making them proud."

— Taylor Checkley

"I am thankful because I have wonderful people around me who help me stay calm, cool, and collected."

— Chantel Drysdale

"I am thankful for my health, that of my family, and all the blessings that I have received this year."

— Arin Blake

"I am beyond grateful to my family who have stood by me through everything and have supported me in all that I set out to do. And also to my friends who have made my gray days brighter sometimes."

— Abigail Solórzano

"I am thankful for the opportunities I have had. I know most of my childhood friends were not as lucky. For the support I received from family, friends, and

professors. Lastly, I am grateful for mother nature; she showed me her beauty through the tough times."

— Presler Maxius

"This year, I am thankful for all the blessings and opportunities that I have been granted, and I am thankful for all the help and support I've been given to be where I am today."

— Rebecca Johnson

"I'm grateful for all the love and constant support I receive from my friends and family and also for having the opportunity to attend such a diverse, community-oriented university."

— Nina Escalante

"I'm thankful for having such a strong group of support, whether it be my family, my friends, or my teammates. No matter what happens, I can always count on having someone to help me through any sort of trouble. I'm happiest when I get to share my successes and achievements with them."

— Nicole Rafols

Barry University's Years of Service Celebration for Honors Program Faculty



These are pictures from the Barry University's Years of Service Celebration which took place on Wednesday, November 8, 2017.

Among the 33 Barry University employees who celebrated their 20, 25, 30, and 40 years of service, Dr. Goehl (pictured on the left with Sister Linda Bevilacqua, President) was recognized for his 40 years of service and Dr. Sirimangkala (pictured on the right) was recognized for her 20 years of service at Barry University.

Dr. Zuzana Zajickova, Chair of Physical Sciences, had this to say about Dr. Goehl:

"Dr. John Goehl can be simply described as a true gentleman. He is well respected and celebrated among his colleagues for his lifelong dedication to teaching and research in physics. He is distinguished among students for his determination to help them succeed and for challenging them to apply problem-solving skills, rather than turning to plain memorization."

Dr. Vicente Berdayes, Chair of Communication, had this to say about Dr. Sirimangkala:

"Winnie is a beloved teacher in the Department of Communication both among undergraduate and graduate students. Her courses on topics such as Conflict Resolution and Intercultural Communication are mainstays of the department's focus on providing students tools to create dialogue and understanding among people. She also plays a pivotal role as Director of the Honors Program where she serves as a mentor to some of the University's brightest students."

Honors Program Info

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ONLY HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS!

Email Dr. Sirimangkala for more information.

HP Requirements

Here is just a quick reminder to ALL members of what is required of you in order to be a part of the program and be able to receive and enjoy the benefits of being a part of HP.

- Complete the Seniors Thesis before graduation
- Enroll in one HP course per term
- Maintain a cum GPA of 3.5 or above
- Attend at least 2 HP sponsored events every semester

We Want Your Feedback!

HP is about you, and as such we want to hear from you. Send us your comments about the program, specific classes, or professors; or drop off an anonymous note in our lab or outside Dr. Sirimangkala's office. Anything you send will NEVER be published. We want to make the program better and more enjoyable for you. You have a voice and we want to hear it!



Free T-Shirts!

They Are Back!

The 2017-2018 Honors Program t-shirts are here! With the strongest support from our Dean, Dr. Karen Callaghan, the HP community will be wearing the newly designed Honors Program t-shirts around and about campus. We would like to also thank Ms. Debbie Montague, Assistant

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, and BU's Marketing department for their wonderful assistance in this process. The design credit goes to HPSAB members. To all of our beloved alumni: an HP t-shirt might just be waiting for you when you return to visit Barry! Current students and HP faculty, please e-mail Dr. Sirimangkala to pick up your T-shirt.