



Honors program newsletter

Barry University

WELCOME!

Welcome to the December issue of the Honors Program Newsletter. As our semester is rapidly coming to a close, the last two weeks are sure to be a frenzy of homework, term papers, and final exams. No doubt, many students feel overburdened by all the things they have to accomplish in a short amount of time. Don't worry – even the best students can feel this way at certain times. One important thing to do as this month starts is to figure out when your final exams are. The calendar is included later on in the newsletter. Make a list so you know what classes you have to study for. If you have friends in the Honors Program classes, it can be helpful to collaborate on study guides or organize study sessions. It's important to have time for yourself as well; in between studying for exams, take some time to relax. Especially for seniors! As this semester ends, you will be one step closer to attaining your goals of walking out of Barry University with a diploma in hand. All the hard work will be worthwhile soon. Best of all, look forward to the future. With winter break rapidly approaching, make time to spend with your friends and family that you do not get to see often, and remember to have fun! Especially if you stay somewhere that has snow.

“Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential to take time off and to make sure that your most important decision in the day simply consists of choosing which color to slide down on the rainbow.”

~Douglas Pagels, These Are the Gifts I'd Like to Give to You

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A note from the Editor:

I would like to extend a warm hello to all that have read the newsletter over the last few months. It has been my pleasure to be the Newsletter editor since August of 2013. Excitingly, I am going to be traveling to Mexico to teach for the duration of the school year. Fortunately, I have the great pleasure of introducing the newest editor of the newsletter – Paola Montenegro. Paola is very involved in the Honors Program Student Advisory Board. She is a new transfer student to Barry and is majoring in Biology. Through taking general classes, she is discovering some of her interests, such as Sociology. I would greatly appreciate it everyone helped to welcome Paola into the role: tell her about what types of news stories interest you and what articles you would like to see featured in our newsletter.

Best Wishes,

Hemaghini Das

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Since the 1970's, the Kennedy Space Center has made their shuttle landing facility available for emergency landing by Santa Claus should problems develop during his annual visit to children around the world!
- Hanukkah is celebrated every year between the end of November and the end of December. It begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, which varies from year to year on the Western calendar. The eight day celebration commemorates the rededication of the Jerusalem temple, and the miracle of the sacred lamp that burned for eight days on a single day's oil.
- Kwanzaa is a seven day celebration of African culture begun by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor at California State University. Celebrated from December 26th to January 1st, Kwanzaa (which means "first fruits of the harvest") is meant to honor African heritage and present day life in America.

Do you have a fun holiday fact about your traditions? If so, we would love to hear! Send us your favorite experiences, traditions, or memories from this winter break to be included in the January edition of the newsletter.

VICE-CHAIR'S ADVICE ABOUT CONFERENCES

With finals week rapidly approaching, many of us are in the process of completing research and term papers that will sit amongst the other untouched files on our laptops for years to come. However, these papers need not go to waste; instead, you can utilize them to participate in professional opportunities that give you a wonderful opportunity to explore your field in further detail. Through submitting these papers of interest to conferences, you have the opportunity to receive feedback from others on potential errors, complications, or places for improvement in your research. Before doing that, however, you have to find the conference that's right for you.

It is important to remember that conferences can be a wonderful opportunity to delve deeper into the research in your field, and to present your own work.



FINDING THE CONFERENCE

Selecting which conferences you will submit to can be a daunting task, as there are hundreds of opportunities with varying levels of credibility and value to your future career and research. As such, you may want to begin searching for a conference by asking a professor in the relevant field for any suggestions. After taking those into account, you can also search online for conferences that are relevant to your research. However, you should keep in mind that many conferences are interdisciplinary, meaning that your search should (at least at first) be broader. For example, if I wrote a paper on the philosophy of art, I wouldn't want to limit myself to merely philosophy conferences; rather, I could also take advantage of conferences in the arts and humanities, so long as my topic was relevant to the call for papers of said conferences.

PREPARING YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Once you've found the conference(s) that you want to apply to, you should carefully read the respective call for papers, which should include important details such as word count limits, submission deadlines, people to contact with questions, etc. When preparing our submission, be sure to adhere carefully to that information, as most conferences require individuals to strictly follow their guidelines. For example, a conference may want you to prepare your paper for blind review, meaning that your name and any other identifying information is removed from the paper. Likewise, they may request that you submit a brief abstract to accompany your paper, which may later be included in the conference program if you are accepted. After you prepare your submission using the relevant guidelines, you should have someone review the submission to ensure that there are no grammatical errors, it accurately reflects the appropriate level of rigor for the conference at hand, etc.; this is a great opportunity to utilize the writing center on campus for assistance, or to contact a professor to review your work. Once you have had someone examine your submission and have made the necessary corrections, you can submit your work, and then simply have to wait to hear back about your submission!

SUMMING IT UP

It is important to remember that conferences can be a wonderful opportunity to delve deeper into the research in your field, and to present your own work. Even if you feel uncomfortable submitting your own paper, many conferences will still allow you to attend so long as you pay the appropriate registration fees, which can be a great chance to see how an academic presentation is conducted, network with people from your field, and find inspiration for future research and papers. If you do choose to present and are accepted, be sure to go into the conference with an open mind; you may receive a lot of critiques of your work, especially if it's new research, but the comments given are meant to help you improve your work and are by no means reflective of your capabilities as a student and researcher. I encourage you all to submit to at least one conference during your undergraduate career, and am more than happy to help you if you have any questions or concerns regarding submissions!

Cheryl Frazier

FALL 2014 Guest Lecture Series

Our November Honors Program Guest Lecture Series on the place of America as a global political power was a great success. This semester’s panel included Dr. Foreman and Dr. Mendez, as well as a student presenter from Dr. Ward’s class. The chair and editor, Alek Sayers and Hemaghini Das respectively, served to moderate the discussion. The guest lecture series delved into the multifaceted nature of the place of the United States as a global world power in the political realm; though no easy answers could be found, Dr. Mendez and Dr. Foreman gave insight to prior history, rules and regulations, and prevailing attitudes that played a part. Dr. Foreman also elaborated on the ethics of drone strikes, which led to some discussion of pacifism and just war theory. The audience was left with several questions: Are there any easy answers to establishing what role the United States should have in global politics? Is there really such a thing as ‘fair, just war’ anymore?

The Honors Program Guest Lecture series is a great event to attend. Be sure to attend the upcoming one in the Spring if you missed this one. In order to remain active, you must attend one academic event and one social event per semester. Guest Lecture Series are informative and pertinent sessions. Be sure to check them out!

FINALS EXAMS CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 8 CLASS TIME	Tues. Dec. 9 CLASS TIME	Wed. Dec. 10 CLASS TIME	Thurs. Dec. 11 CLASS TIME	Fri. Dec. 12 CLASS TIME	TIMES OF EXAMINATION
8:00 M T W R F 8:00 M W F 8:00 M	8:00 T 8:00 M T W F 8:00 T R	8:00 M W 9:00 M T W F 9:00 M W 9:00 M W F	8:00 R	8:00 F	8:00-9:50 AM
9:30 M W 10:00 M W F	9:00 T 9:00 T R 9:30 T R	11:00 M W F 11:00 M W 11:00 M T W R F	10:00 M T W R F 11:00 M T W R 11:00 T R	11:00 F 12:00 M T W R F 12:00 M W F	10:00-11:50 AM
12:30 M W F 1:00 M W F 2:00 M W	12:00 T R 1:00 T R 1:00 T 1:00 T	12:00 M W 2:00 W 2:00 M W F	12:30 T R	1:00 W F	1:00-2:50 PM
3:00 M W F	3:00 T 3:30 T R	3:00 M W 3:00 W 3:30 M W 3:30 W	2:00 T R 2:30 T R 1:00 R	1:00 M T W R F 2:00 F 4:00 M W F	3:00-4:50 PM
4:00 M 4:30 M	4:00 T R 4:00 T 4:30 T R	4:00 M W 4:30 W	4:30 R	3:00 F	4:00-5:50 PM
5:00 M 5:30 M 5:30 M W 6:00 M 6:30 M 7:00 M	5:00 T 5:30 T 5:30 T R 6:00 T 6:30 T 7:00 T	5:00 W 5:30 W 6:00 W 6:30 W 7:00 W	5:00 R 5:30 R 6:00 R 6:30 R 7:00 R	6:00 F	6:00-7:50 PM



CURRENT EVENTS

National News:

Nation-wide fury about Ferguson

By November 24th, the prosecutor in Ferguson, Missouri announced the jury's decision not to charge a police officer, Darren Wilson, for shooting an unarmed African-American teenager, Michael Brown. This was the spark that ignited the longstanding anger, and distrust of the system among African Americans in Ferguson, and across the nation. American news have been full of people protesting by burning police cars, throwing bricks, smashing shops, and crowds walking regardless of the tear gas in the air. African Americans are protesting because of the racial injustices in the country. Missouri's mayor, James Knowles, is a white Republican who is in charge of the police force, in which three out of 53 officers are black. Such disparities make many believe that in fact, justice and law-enforcement systems are racist.



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/clarence-b-jones/ferguson-the-mirror-that-reflects-americas-open-secret_b_6232894.html
<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21635012-race-americas-deepest-problem-multiple-small-changes-can-mitigate-it-fury-ferguson>

World News:

Pope Francis urges Muslim leaders to condemn terrorism



Pope Francis traveled to Turkey to discuss divisions between faiths, and is calling for an end to Christians' prosecution in the Middle East. Christians have been targeted by Muslims in Iraq and Syria, with a violent prosecution by the Islamic State when they took over the city of Mosul during this summer. Pope Francis joined Patriarch Bartholomew, a spiritual leader from the Orthodox Christian community, and they both said, "We express our common concern for the current situation in Iraq, Syria, and the whole Middle East. Many of our brothers and sisters are being prosecuted and have been violently from their homes. It even seems that the value of human life has been lost, that the human person no longer matters and may be sacrificed to other interests. And, tragically, all this is met by the indifference of many." It is by focusing on commonalities of faith and the value of learning from religious differences that we will come to repair

relations between Christians and Muslims.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30265996>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/29/world/europe/on-trip-to-turkey-pope-francis-calls-for-dialogue-in-battling-isis.html>

Ebola crisis: World Health Organization's upbeat on targets

A spokesman from the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Bruce Aylward states that progress has been made, yet warns that much work still needs to be done until there are zero cases. According to WHO, there have been 5,987 Ebola deaths in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Dr. Aylward states that the "yawning gap" between disease levels, and the capacity to cope has significantly narrowed. He praises changes by communities in these countries, as well as their strong national government leadership.

Yet, the head of the UN Ebola response mission in West Africa, Tony Banbury, told BBC that there is still a large risk the deadly disease could spread to other parts of the world. That is why it is so important to get to zero Ebola cases as quickly as possible.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30281306>



UPCOMING HONORS PROGRAM EVENTS

Honors Program Third Annual Holiday Gathering and Yankee Swap

Wednesday December 3, 2014 from 4-5 p.m. in Andreas III

Before the craziness of finals is upon us, HPSAB would like to invite all Honors Program faculty and students to take some time to kick back, relax, and enjoy the holidays. Join us for our annual holiday dinner party and Yankee Swap.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Yankee Swap, it is essentially a fun way for everyone to inexpensively receive a holiday present. We ask that each person who wishes to participate bring a small, wrapped gift. This game is the perfect chance for re-gifting things you may have gotten in the past and have no use for or making something homemade. If you want to buy something please try to keep it under \$5.



The game is essentially a random present swap in which everyone brings one gift and receives one gift. Some of you may know this as a "White Elephant Gift Exchange" or by other names. Please read the gift criteria and game rules below.

THE GIFTS:

1. The gift should be valued at less than \$5. You can either buy something inexpensive, re-gift something in good condition, or make something homemade.
2. The gift can be funny or serious but should be tasteful (nothing inappropriate).
3. The gift should be wrapped or in an envelope before arriving to the party. Gift bags are OK if they cannot be seen into.
4. The gifts will be placed in an area where few people can see who brought which gift. Do NOT put your name on the gift, since the game is more fun not knowing who brought what.

THE GAME:

1. Anyone who wishes to participate must contribute a gift.
2. Slips of paper with numbers on them will be placed into a bowl. Each participant draws a number and holds onto that slip of paper.
3. On the first turn, the guest with paper slip #1 chooses a gift and opens it.
4. On the next turn, that guest then gets the choice of "stealing" any unwrapped gift or choosing a wrapped one.

The game continues based on the following:

1. If a gift is stolen from you, you can steal a gift (within limits, described below), or open a wrapped one.
2. A gift cannot be immediately stolen back from the guest who just stole it.
3. The fourth "owner" of a gift gets to keep it. The gift is "dead" after it has been stolen three times.
4. "Owners" of "live" gifts must keep them visible and hold them up when requested.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK'S CHRISTMAS FAIR EVENT

As one of the newsletter editors, I am also part of Barry's Alternative Spring Break (ASB). This year, one group is going to be traveling to Immokalee, FL and the other will be traveling to El Paso, TX. We will be helping in these communities; as a way to fundraise for our trips, we are raffling a Samsung Galaxy Tablet 4 for just \$1 a ticket. The drawing will be done at an event we're hosting – the Christmas Fair event, which will take place on **December 5th from 6-9 p.m. in Landon Events Room**. There will be a free movie playing, as well as many games, activities, and food! Please join in the holiday spirit, and at the same time help ASB to fundraise for our trips. I hope to see you there!



Sincerely,

Paola Montenegro

Barry University

Honors Program Lab

Did you know that the Honors Program has a computer lab open to your use? Currently located in Landon 206 G, this lab provides students with a quiet place to work and study, whether it be on your Honors Program Thesis or your general coursework! The lab also features free printing to students who have a key.

Those interested in using the lab may contact Dr. Sirimangkala for more information on purchasing a key. Keys are available for a \$10 deposit, which is returned upon your completion of the program.

This lab is for HP students only.

Just a reminder for the students using the lab—be sure to be responsible about usage, sign-in, and keep the door locked.

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If you ever have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of the HPSAB officers!

During this winter break, we wish you ...!

