



Volume 2, Issue 6

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Barry University

## Welcome:

Hello Honors Program students and faculty members:

It is my honor to introduce you to the April issue of Honors Program's newsletter. I am very grateful for the valuable opportunity of becoming a part of HPSAB and contribute to this outstanding and extraordinary community that encourages academic achievement and character development.

After graduating from high school in Honduras, I took a step further to pursue my educational goals in the United States. One of the main concerns I had was overcoming the drastic change of living in a completely new environment, interacting with people from different backgrounds, and becoming independent. However, our attitude helps us overcome our obstacles and I chose to be grateful.

As a member of the HP community, I am interacting with like-minded and optimistic individuals, and they have reminded me of one of my family sayings: "Wherever you go, keep your feet on the ground." Everyone is down to earth and is making a positive impact on campus and on each other. I started my first Honors class this semester (ENG 199 H1 with Dr. Brad Bowers) and surprisingly, it has become my favorite English class. In recalling the first HP activity that I participated in, the February museum trip, it was amazing how easily I was able to relate with the other Honors students. As the semester draws to a close, I am already looking forward to the new academic year.

I strongly encourage every one of you to take advantage of the great opportunities that the Honors Program here at Barry University offers. The activities help us extend our qualities and expand our horizons by working closely with our peers and professors. It is an amazing feeling when we can motivate each other as well as learn from one another. I urge you all to participate in the upcoming Beach Cleanup activity as a chance to make a difference helping our world, and strengthen our relationships with other Honors students.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter that we proudly created with valuable resources to help us thrive in our pursuit of excellence, scholarship, development, and service. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Qiwen Su

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## April Fun Fact:

While the origins of April Fools' Day are sketchy at best, one of the more popular theories dates back to the 16th century. Prior to 1582, the new year began on April

1st.

When the new year was moved to Jan. 1 in 1582, there were some people who hadn't heard or didn't believe the change in the date, so

they continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1.

These "April fools" were often ridiculed by being sent on "fools errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

### Special points of interest:

Check out the website for more information and to read the newsletter online!

<http://www.barry.edu/honors-program/newsletter.html>

# Honor Scholar News:

## Dianna Bellian's Thesis Defense:

Honors Program students are required to write a thesis on a particular topic related to their major. Upon completion of the thesis, they are required to present a defense to faculty members in order to support their claims. On March 31, 2014, Dianna defended her thesis successfully. Congratulations, Dianna! Here is Dianna's experience with the process:

*"My thesis is titled "Selling Social Consciousness: the Irony and Implications of Mass Marketing Young Adult Dystopias." Essentially, it is about what happens to a text when filtered through the marketing process, made into a commodity, and turned into a film. I looked into the outcome of this process on novels like the Hunger Games, Divergent, and The Maze Runner and came to the conclusion that there are two possible outcomes of the commodification of the novels: 1) their global impact and influence is increased due to the wider spread viewership and 2) the selling of products and advertising in conjunction with the novels can confuse viewers and reader and thus harm the message these books convey."*

## Award Winner

Each year, Barry University recognizes academic excellence at the Honors Convocation. This year, Dianna Bellian has won two awards and will receive her honors at the Honors Convocation on May 2, 2014. We

first learned that Dianna was chosen as one of the two recipients for the St. Catherine Medal in the senior cat-



2013 HONORS CONVOCATION AWARDS

egory. Dianna was also chosen as one of the three College of Arts and Sciences students to receive the Dean's Awards in the Humanities/Fine Arts/Theology category. Congratulations, Dianna for having won these very prestigious awards and for being a great role model for all of us! We are very proud of you!

## Graduating This Year: Dianna Bellian and Louise Pernf



Due to her excellent work in the Honors Program and on campus, we are sure Dianna will go far. Here are some of Dianna's plans.

*"After graduation I plan to continue on with my Master's degree in Media Studies and Contemporary Literature at Eastern Illinois University where I have been offered a Graduate Assistant position. This summer, however, I will be looking into interning at a newspaper company in the Port Arthur area (Texas) and hopefully traveling to Arizona to visit friends and my sister for a few weeks. I will also be making a trip up to Charleston to visit EIU and apartment hunt as well as watching my younger brothers graduate from high school on June 7th. After my Master's degree, I would like to continue to pursue my PhD. but also plan to follow my training at the Barry Buccaneer and continue working in the news industry for a newspaper or magazine."*

# Honor Scholar News:

## Honors Committee:

Bethany Dill and Deborah Mejia will finish their service on the Honors Committee at the end of this academic year. They have served as a great student voice in the committee.

Bethany writes, “*Student input allows Honors Committee faculty to best meet students' needs and interests. It has been a pleasure to represent Barry students on the Committee and I encourage others to consider participating next year.*”

Thank you for your great service!



## Alumni News: Kelecia Smith

Kelecia Smith graduated from HP and BU in December 2011, here are the latest developments with her:

“Having graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Sciences December 2011, I am a proud Alumni of Barry University and the Honors Program. Upon graduating, I continued my education and graduated with a Master's in Information Technology and Management from Florida Atlantic University.

I recently obtained a position within the Information Technology Security Office at Florida International University as an IT Security Administrator.

Being part of the Honors Program is truly a rewarding experience and provides students with an enriched, well-rounded, and humanitarian curriculum. The program not only involves classes or the theory aspect, but also social through events and volunteer experiences. As an international student from the Bahamas, I appreciated the wealth of knowledge, critical thinking, and wide perspective that the Honors Program provided me through learning about so many different disciplines and cultures.

My advice to current HP students is to take advantage of the Honors Program resources and all it has to offer, including completing your thesis (no matter how tough it may get). I wish you all well and good luck!



# ALUMNI NEWS:

## Kelsa Bartley

After graduating in May 2010, I spent a year gaining work experience. I applied for Optional Practical Training, which allows international students to remain in the US for one year after graduation to gain work experience. Three weeks later, on my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, I interviewed for a photographer position at the University Of Miami Miller School Of Medicine, in the Biomedical Communications Department, located in the Louis Calder Memorial Library. Although they felt that I did not have the amount of experience they were looking for in photography, they offered me another position in the library. The job had nothing to do with photography, but they were impressed with my customer service skills and leadership qualities. I helped patrons; mostly medical students and faculty; assess the books, databases and other library services. My happiness at exploring my new found field was short lived, however. My OPT year came to an end and although I had applied for my green card to work permanently in the US, it would not be processed in time for me to continue working legally at the library. After 6 months at UM, I had no choice but to return to my home country of Trinidad and Tobago.

Back in Trinidad, I began my job search anew. After 2 months of applying to every job advertisement I could find, a chance encounter with an old friend would lead me to a job that made use of exactly those 2 areas of expertise. I got a position at Government Information Services Limited (GISL), a government media company. As the Cataloguing Assistant in charge of the company's digital photography assets, I had the sole responsibility of organizing images, cataloguing them into the company's database and retrieving them for use in marketing and advertising projects for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Returning home was also great for my personal life. I got married to my boyfriend of 12 years in an intimate gathering of family and friends. That long awaited day was definitely one of the highlights of my life!

After 2 years of living in Trinidad, I finally got my green card and moved back to the Miami in September 2013. In November 2013, I began another position at the Calder Memorial Library at UM, this time as a manager in the Reference and Education Department. I have been also been doing freelance photography since graduating in 2010, both in Trinidad and in Miami. I do mostly events and portraits. I plan to continue exploring options in photography, as well as librarianship. I am considering pursuing a Masters in photography or Library Science, maybe both! I am looking forward to whatever my future career and personal life will bring.

I had a great opportunity to teach photography at the University of the West Indies (UWI) while in Trinidad. I gained an interest in teaching after doing it for my Honors thesis project at Barry (The Shutterbug Project: How Teaching Photography to Children in Marginalized Communities may be used to Promote Social Justice). Teaching photography to those kids was a great experience for me, which was totally unexpected. I enjoyed the interaction with the students and seeing their progress literally before my eyes.

**My advice would be to** try finding ways to incorporate the honors program philosophies you are learning into your major. For your thesis project, research something you are passionate about in your field. It will make it a lot easier to write 30 plus pages! I knew going in that I would be more successful doing an actual project, rather than writing a research paper. So I created a project about photography which incorporated HP requirements and was not only fun to execute, but made writing about the process and doing the research a lot easier. The most important thing I would say is to give yourself enough time to prepare and do your thesis. I started my project more than a year in advance of graduation.



## Upcoming Events:

- 04/02 - [Interfaith Passover Seder](#)
- 04/02 - [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)
- 04/02 - [Connect with the Divine with Christian Meditation](#)
- 04/03 - [FBI Presents Dangers on Bioterrorism](#)
- 04/03 - [Bible Sharing Group—Sharing the Word](#)
- 04/09 - [20th Annual Psychology Student Research Forum](#)
- 04/09 - [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)
- 04/09 - [Connect with the Divine with Christian Meditation](#)
- 04/10 - [Tartuffe: Born Again](#)
- 04/10 - [Bible Sharing Group—Sharing the Word](#)
- 04/11 - [Tartuffe: Born Again](#)
- 04/16 - [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#)
- 04/16 - [Connect with the Divine with Christian Meditation](#)
- 02/21 - [Andy Gato Gallery Art Exhibition](#)
- 03/14 - [Students “Stand Out” with a Gallery Exhibition](#)
- 04/22 - [Earth Day Celebration - Be Seen Being GREEN](#)
- 04/23 - [Connect with the Divine with Christian Meditation](#)

### Honors Program Participation Opportunity:

HP is looking for volunteers to help out at the Honors Convocation on May 2, 2014. If available, please contact Dr. Srimangkala.



### Attention:

As part of the Honors Program, students are required to participate in at least one event per semester. Check out these opportunities to fulfill this requirement:

- There will be a HP Beach Cleaning taking place on April 12. This is a great service opportunity that will be sure to benefit the community.

# Helping the Community:

The Honors Program believes in helping the community and lending a hand to those in need. One of the biggest problems faced in Florida is the rampant pollution of the beaches. Instead of the white sandy shores that are often idealized in postcards, many Miami beaches are often littered with plastic and garbage. In order to form a positive difference in the world around us, the Honors Program has elected to take part in a Beach Cleaning on April 12, 2014. Feel free to e-mail Dr. Sirimangkala to sign-up for the opportunity to help the environment with provides so much for us.



For next year's Community Project, the Honors Program will work in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. This term, HUM 300 H1 class members submitted their proposals as part of the course requirements. Among nine proposals received, Drs. Byrne and Sirimangkala chose two proposals and asked Jelissa Cruz and Alek Sayers, as the two finalists, to present their proposals. Jelissa Cruz's proposal was on Financial Literacy and Alek Sayers' proposal was on Home Ownership. At the end of their presentations, the entire class voted to adopt Alek Sayers' proposal as the 2015 Honors Program Community Project. In Spring 2015, HP students will participate in the Miami's Habitat for Humanity home building project. Keep this activity in mind for next year!

## Evening of Celebration and Appreciation

The annual Evening of Celebration and Appreciation (ECA) will take place on April 21, 2014. This is an opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments of the Honors Program over the year and to congratulate our graduating members. Be sure to look for an invitation and remember to RSVP.

### Evening of Celebration and Appreciation

Date: April 21, 2014  
Time: 4–5:30 PM  
Location: Kostka Room

RSVP by April 14, 2014  
to Winnie  
Sirimangkala,  
[psirimangkala@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangkala@barry.edu)

The Honors Program Student  
Advisory Board (HPSAB) cordially  
invites you to the annual *Evening  
of Celebration and Appreciation*.

HP students would like to show  
their appreciation to  
faculty and celebrate the  
graduating seniors' success.  
Please come join us!

Dinner will be served.

BARRY UNIVERSITY  
HONORS PROGRAM

# Current News: Cheap Microscope

A new type of microscope could revolutionize the cost of medical care in third world countries....

Imagine if clinics in developing countries were equipped with inexpensive yet durable tools that could help medical personnel identify and diagnose a variety of deadly diseases like Malaria, Chagas disease, or Leishmaniasis. For millions of people around the world waiting to be diagnosed and treated, such a tool could be a life-saver. Manu Prakash, a professor at Stanford University and his students have developed a microscope made out of a flat sheet of paper, a watch battery, LED, and optical units that when folded together, through origami, creates a functional instrument with the resolution of 800 nanometers – basically magnifying an object up to 2,000 times.



It is called the “Foldscope,” the microscope is extremely inexpensive to manufacture, costing between fifty-cents and a dollar per instrument. Because the microscope is assembled primarily from paper and optical components the size of a grain of sand, it is virtually indestructible. The foldscope also differs from the microscopes typically found in science labs because it's not only portable, but it also has the ability to project an image on any surface, allowing a larger group of people the ability to look at an image simultaneously. Prakash is hoping that because the Foldscope is so cheap to manufacture and easy to assemble that everyone will have access to the world of microscopy so that one day every kid will have a Foldscope in their backpacks or tucked away in their pocket.

For more information: <http://www.geek.com/science/foldscope-is-a-50-cent-paper-microscope-that-magnifies-up-to-2000-times-1587443/>

## Global Headlines: Lost Malaysian Airplane:

It simply vanished. Could it have been aliens? The Bermuda triangle? Did the plane fly through a time warp? Maybe not, but then, what really happened? The mysteries behind Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and its missing 239 passengers may have finally been answered on Monday, March 24, when the Malaysian prime minister announced that the plane

went down in the southern Indian Ocean. While a number of people now may be frightened to fly anywhere near Malaysia since a second plane heading from Malaysia to South Korea was forced to land in Hong Kong, others may be scared of flying at all. With summer coming soon, let's all hope none of us suddenly disappear as well.



## New Banner



Shade' Lovett, a new member on HPSAB, designed a new banner for the newsletter when it is to be sent as a news bulletin to the entire university community and alumni. See the top of the front page for the new design. What a creative scholar!



Dianna Bellian, Bethany Dill, and Cheryl Frazier will travel to present their papers at the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) in Niagara Falls, NY on April 3 - 6, 2014. Let's wish them good luck on their presentations!



# Introducing the New HP-LLC

One of the biggest concerns most incoming freshmen have when heading off to college revolves around their changing social spheres. Upon leaving the comfort and safety of high school, where friends are in all of the same classes and extracurricular activities, college seems like foreign territory; suddenly, you have different people in your classes each semester, and dozens of activities to be involved in. As such, it is often intimidating to find people you relate to. Living and learning communities (LLCs) are a great way to solve this dilemma!

LLCs bring together freshmen in similar disciplines, putting them in introductory courses and housing them in the same dorms in an attempt to foster a stronger sense of community than these students would have otherwise. As freshman Hailee Jefferys, a member of the Transitions Learning Community (arts & sciences LLC) points out, *"The fall term flew by because of the relationships I made with my peers in the learning community... I definitely recommend the learning community program[s] to freshman. [They] eliminate some of the anxiety you have coming into college about issues like making friends and having good professors."*

Barry University currently has several LLCs, including the Transitions Learning Community, the Business Connections community, and the Division of Nursing LLC. It is with great excitement that I announce our newest LLC, the Honors Program Living and Learning Community! This LLC will give freshmen students coming into the Honors Program the opportunity to live together in an HP-only section of one of our dorm halls. In addition, students in the HP LLC will take HON 199 H1, a freshmen seminar course taught by a different HP professor each term (e.g., Drs. Lawrence Byrne, Victor Romano, and Pawena Sirimangkala). Students will also take PHI 191 H1 with Dr. Ruth Tallman and THEO 201 H1 with Dr. Ray Ward, our newest HP faculty member.

As Dr. Ward stated in a recent interview, *"I'm looking forward to being able to collaborate on the classes... [in the LLC] the overlap [between philosophy of religion and theology] will be deliberate and can be cultivated. Having worked with the Transitions LLC before, Dr. Ward also stated that LLCs are really great at cultivating the kind of students we want at Barry- people who are motivated and socially responsible, who want to be involved. Dr. Tallman shared in Dr. Ward's excitement; while discussing her work with the Transitions LLC, Dr. Tallman remarked "I thought it was great. They became this cute little family. I feel like I got to know them better than I do in a normal class...I'm hoping the HP LLC will build a sense of community within the program. Myself and Dr. Ward both hitting them with religion-y stuff but from different angles ought to be a hoot."*

We look forward to seeing the relationships being built by the new HP LLC! Learning communities on campus have proven to be a pivotal tool in developing lasting friendships, improving study habits, and enriching the Barry experience. With such amazing professors on board, and a set of bright minds coming in, the HP LLC should do wonders in cultivating the next generation of Honors Program students. Those with questions about the HP LLC can contact Dr. Sirimangkala by emailing [psirimangka-la@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangka-la@barry.edu).

- Cheryl Frazier



Dear Newsletter Readers,

Over the year, I have greatly enjoyed writing the monthly newsletters and sharing information that you hopefully found interesting or useful. I learned many things in my time as the editor and was able to meet many Honors Program students. For the next year, I hope to write articles that will peak student interest. I also want to incorporate more student input. I hope you will send me many submissions and ideas.

Sincerely, Hemaghini Das (Editor)

### Come Back Next Year:

Thank you for reading the newsletter for this year. Next year, we look forward to being able to incorporate more ideas from students. We hope to feature work from students and hear more from the alumni of the Honors Program. HPSAB is always open to your suggestions, so feel free to contact any of the HPSAB members with your questions or ideas.

Have a great summer!

### Qiwen's Experience:

*Qiwen, a new HPSAB member, recently traveled abroad over spring break to serve the community. Here is her reflection on her trip.*

Spending my first spring break at Barry University as a member of Alternative Spring Break (ASB) and doing service learning projects for a community in Kingston, Jamaica was one of the best decisions and experiences I have had so far this freshman year.

We had the opportunity to do several activities which included visiting several homebound elderly, amputees and sick individuals and delivered them the ashes on Ash Wednesday. We also helped out at the school interacting with the children on their school's Sports Day. We witnessed poverty and homelessness at a level that people usually don't think about; I remember one night within just 3 hours we delivered 185 meals, but it still wasn't enough food for all the people we encountered. They received the food and our blessings we delivered, and in turn they blessed us with their genuine smiles, gratitude and profound joy, and strong faith. This experience deeply inspired me and made me realize that my mission was not only to serve, but to also be willing to receive in return.

It was an incredibly enriching, unforgettable, and life-changing week. This trip gave me new lenses to look and appreciate the little things of my daily life. I am so grateful for the friendships I made with the wonderful group members and that we shared a humbling experience together. There is only so much I can do at this point, but I am willing and confident that one day I will be able to do more as a medical researcher.

This newsletter was written with suggestions from Andre Camacho, Shenea Abraham, Lizandra Cruz. Feel free to send in suggestions about articles that might interest you—your ideas might just end up in



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