



Honors Program Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2015

Welcome!

Greetings HP students and faculty,

Welcome to the March edition of the Honors Program Newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break. A break from classes and hectic schedules is always refreshing. However, now that our break is over, we must stay focused and continue to work hard. After all, we are already more than halfway through the spring semester!

In the midst of our busy lives, we seem to overlook some of the greatest offerings of life (e.g. community). The people around us inevitably affect our lives. Yet, we are often times subconsciously self-absorbed. How many times do we stop to hold the door for others? Do we show our gratitude to the people who prepare our food for us on the daily basis? How many of us can even remember the name of the people we nonchalantly walk past everyday? An unknown author once stated:

During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count towards our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'." I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy. (Gilbreath, 2004)

It is important for us to get to know the people around us. Our small circle of friends is great. However, how many times do we miss the chance to get to know the great individuals we so commonly ignore? Everyone has a unique essence that differentiates him or her from the next person. It may be unrealistic to become the best of friends with everyone, but the act of simply acknowledging people is a step towards building a stronger community.

As we all finish the semester, I encourage you all to interact more with the people around you. Greet someone with a smile, "hello," or "good morning/good afternoon." Such interaction could even make someone's day brighter. Never miss the opportunity to positively affect the lives of others.

Shade' Lovett

Gilbreath, C., & Gilbreath, G. (2003). *For Pete's Sake: A Son Reflects on His Father's Forty-seven Year Confinement with Mental Illness*. AuthorHouse.

Upcoming Honors Program Events:

March 11: Guest Lecture Series: From College to Retirement: Financial Knowledge for the Middle Class (3:00—4:30 p.m. at Kotska Room)

March 25: HPSAB meeting (3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. at Lehman 328)

March 31: Field Trip to Vizcaya Museum

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome 1

Alternative Spring Break 2

Hemaghini's Experience 2

Interview 3

HP Student Article 4

Alumni Article 4

Current Events 5

Upcoming Activities 6

Contact Information 6

Barry's Alternative Spring Break

As a member of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB), I am also a member of Barry's Alternative Spring Break (ASB). This year, a group of students as well as two faculty members had the opportunity to visit Immokalee, FL and learn about the city's many social issues and what organizations are doing to tackle such issues. We were there from March 1-6, and worked with organizations such as Guadalupe Social Services, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the Student-Farmworker Alliance (SFA), the Immokalee Community School, the Shelter for Abused Women and Children and also went to a Packing Plant Tour, Corkscrew Swamp (where there have been previous cases of slavery), and Ave Maria University. In a few couple of days, we participated with other organizations and learned a whole lot about the social issues under-going Immokalee. We looked at issues from a charity perspective when visiting Guadalupe Social Services who provide food and shelter for homeless people, and from a social justice perspective when visiting the CIW and learning about what is being done in order for farmworkers' human rights to be respected.

These farmworkers pick tomatoes on a daily basis and are subjected to terrible working conditions when lifting more than 150 heavy buckets of tomatoes every day under incredible heat and few breaks. They have been subjected to multiple forms of modern-slavery, harassment in the fields, and low wages. In order for their to be greater justice for farmworkers, the CIW has developed multiple programs such as the Fair Food Program. Up next, the Coalition will be hosting a march in St. Petersburg on March 21 as a way to create greater awareness about farmworker justice and amplify the call for companies like Publix and Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program and recognize their responsibility to the people who harvest their everyday produce. At last, there will be a concert that will raise the message to new heights. If you want to sign up for such event, contact the CCSI office.

On the last day, we went to Cayo Costa (a nearby island) where we went camping; we went to the beach, cooked food under a fire and had an incredible time together.

The ASB trip was a very fun yet rewarding experience; we learned a lot, and become closer as a group. I feel unbelievably grateful for having participated, and I recommend HP students to participate as well!

For more information about the CIW, and the SFA visit:

<http://ciw-online.org/>

<http://www.sfalliance.org/>



Paola Montenegro

HP Sophomore, majoring in Pre-Professional Biology



Hemaghini's Experience in Mexico

I have been having a wonderful time here in Merida, Mexico. So far, I have been teaching in three different kindergarten and preschool classrooms, but I have been working mainly with the five and six year olds. I help with teaching Math and Spanish (though Spanish is a little bit of a challenge for me). In addition, we learn simple English words like chicken, please and thank you, and bedroom. So far, we've done rooms in a house; right now, we are working on a food unit. Outside of teaching, there is lots to do in Merida, though it is very different from the United States. I really miss home although there are familiar things like Walmart and McDonalds. I've even gone to the dentist here. I'm looking forward to catching up on all my favorite TV shows when I get back home, but for now, it's nice to have lots of free time. I have visited the city of Izamal, which is painted entirely in yellow; there is an ancient Mayan pyramid in the city. I have also gone to see cenotes, which are caves filled with water that people can go swimming in. The beach here, Progreso, has a 7 km long pier; however, I also miss South Beach. It's been an amazing opportunity to work in the classrooms here; my students are all so sweet - they are constantly telling me stories in Spanish, which gives me a lot of opportunity to practice. The other teachers are also amazing to work with. I get to meet tons of new people where I stay; they come from all over the world; so far, I've met and worked with people from Australia, England, and Canada. While it's been fun, I also can't wait to get back to Barry!

Hemaghini Das

HP Senior, majoring in Education



Interview with Dr. Tallman



Dr. Ruth Tallman teaches PHI 191: Judeo-Christian Doctrine, and she is much loved by the HP students and beyond. Here is what Cheryll Frazier was able to gather from her interview with Dr. Tallman.

Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in Hays, KS, where it is flat, dry, and ugly. About the same number of churches as bars, and not much else. I got my undergrad degree in philosophy with a minor in history from Fort Hays State University. I then moved to Lawrence, KS – hands down the best place in Kansas – to earn an MA in religious studies from the University of Kansas. From there I went to Norman, OK, where I earned a second MA as well as a PhD in philosophy. In addition to the degrees, I also acquired my partner, Jason Southworth, who was a fellow graduate student in my department, and together we acquired our cat, Hepzibah. The three of us moved to south Florida 5 years ago, Jason and I to work at Barry and Hepzibah to terrorize lizards. Since then we have also adopted a turtle named Penelope.

What led you to a career in philosophy?

I loved most of my humanities and social sciences classes in college, but philosophy was the one subject I couldn't ever imagine myself getting tired of. I also loved college – the classes, the campus environment, the long breaks, freedom, and flexibility. Being a philosophy professor means I never have to stop doing the things I loved as an undergrad.

If you had to do something other than be a professor, what would you do?

I really can't imagine. I hope it never comes to that. Maybe I'd open a vegan restaurant that would fail because I have zero business sense.

What do you like most about Barry?

The students. I've taught at several other schools, and there is something about the particular character of Barry's student body – an openness to new ideas, an acceptance of difference, a friendliness, and spirit of appreciation and good sported-ness that I really love. It's hard to articulate, but I am so happy that I get to spend my days hanging out with you guys, talking about ideas.

How do you spend your free time?

I play a lot of Magic the Gathering, watch a lot of Netflix. I like to cook, and read, and spend time with my friends. I love a good conversation

Are there any projects you're currently working on? If so, tell us about them.

I'm working on a paper on non-compliant patients. Trying to make sense of the mental states and desires of someone who professes to want something (such as a positive health outcome) yet does not take steps to accomplish it. Are such people confused about their own desires? Unable to figure out how to seek them? Is there freedom limited by difficult-to-discern factors? How should we interact with such people? Should we pressure them to follow through on their professed goals? Be open to the possibility that they might not want the thing they're "supposed" to want (for instance, can a smoker rationally want to continue smoking?)? My hope is that this paper will help us understand the objectives of a patient-doctor relationship in ways that are more helpful and less antagonistic.

Which course has been the most challenging one for you to teach? And the most rewarding?

I taught a 9 a.m. business ethics class once at another school, and those students were the most hostile group I had ever encountered. I don't know what the deal was – I taught another section of the same course that semester, and those students responded to the exact same material completely differently. This class would just sit there as if they were daring me to make them find any part of the class interesting or relevant. I normally have a good repertoire with my classes, so this was torture for me. It was hard to not give up on them, or just write the class off and hate them. I know this story is supposed to end with me explaining how I triumphantly managed to conquer this hard class and make the students love it, but that didn't happen. I tried different techniques, some worked, some didn't, but I did learn that not all my classes will be equally great, but I do at least have the power to keep them at the level of minimally decent, which has to be enough sometimes, unfortunately.

I've had a lot of really rewarding classes – plenty to make up for the occasional stinky one – the one that sticks in my mind most right now is the senior seminar class I taught last spring. It was only four students, all upper level philosophy majors – and we ran the class seminar style, sitting in our department lounge, working through really hard philosophy together and growing as a group as these students learned they could understand material that they initially thought would be impossible. It was great. I miss them.

What is one thing you wish someone had told you as an undergraduate?

You'll regret the things you didn't do more than the things you did do. Get out, do things, take chances, have experiences. Now's the time. It won't be easier when you're older.

What inspires you the most?

Students who keep going despite really difficult obstacles. I can't imagine trying to learn in a second language, while working full time, while raising kids, dealing with illness – all the hardships I see my students fight through every day. To see them keep going day after day, despite everything, is awe-inspiring.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Hopefully right here, but a slightly bigger paycheck would be nice.

Any final words of wisdom for the HP students?

If you don't like your major classes, find another major. Having a job I look forward to each day is the best thing in the world. Do something you love, even if it's hard, even if it means you'll never be rich. Happiness is better than money.

“You’ll regret the things you didn’t do more than the things you did do. Get out, do things, take chances, have experiences. Now’s the time. It won’t be easier when you’re older.”

About Canada



When I tell people I'm from Canada, Americans usually jump straight to snow and igloos. I am so shocked at the misconceptions of Canada. I'm from Vancouver, BC, it takes me 20 minutes to drive into the state of Washington. (And no, I do not ride my polar bear down to the border.) There is a heavy American influence in Canada: We listen to American music, watch American television and study quite a bit about our Southern neighbors in school. No, I do not know Justin Bieber and no, Canada is not governed by the Queen of England. We have 10 provinces and 3 territories instead of states. Although I chose to enroll in French immersion in high school, not all Canadians speak French. Despite my extreme sweet tooth, I refrain from putting maple syrup on anything other than pancakes, waffles or crepes. We have seasons, which means that in the summer you can spend time at the beach in a bathing suit without shivering (although stepping foot in the ocean would probably make your teeth chatter). And in the winter, Vancouver rarely gets snow, except for on the mountains.

Canada sounds pretty cool, eh?

Cheyenne Head

HP Sophomore, majoring in Pre-Professional Biology

Advice About the Important Things in Life

As a young health professions student who recently started study at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine, the most important thing I have learned in one semester is that I know nothing and there is so much to left learn.

I'm not necessarily talking about in academia or dental studies, but I am talking about identifying what life means beyond oneself and one's strict goals. As an Honors Program student, it is no question that you have discipline and fare well academically among your peers. But beyond that, it took me a long time to learn how much more there is be a part of other than the academically elite.

I finished high school with the intent of becoming an orthodontist at a young age. Before I joined the honors program, my scope and life experience was very limited and I did not give much thought to the world outside of my goals. However, my brief, but meaningful two year time with the honors program and as a part of the honors program student advisory board taught me a lot about how important it is to be aware of humanity and the goings on within our world. I am thankful for being introduced to the possibilities of the world beyond my textbooks. (Hint: Take advantage of the things you learn in HP classes and the outings with Dr. S and the HPS-AB. Those are certainly memories to have and insights to experience.)

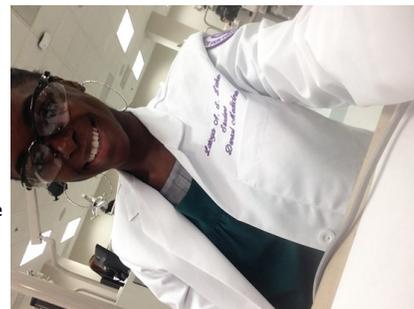
When I started dental school, it was then I realized even further how much was left to learn. Being the youngest in my class, I have classmates who have had previous careers, travelled the world and seen and experience things that I couldn't even imagined have done in my goal-driven ride to professional school. I am friends with wine makers, former lawyers and nurses, people who have backpacked across Europe, and within a few weeks of starting, I knew I was destined to expand my mindset to include having experiences that involve the world around me.

It didn't take long for me to realize that goals should not dictate what you experience along the way. If anything, they should add to it, not take away. I have since revised my goals to include concurrently pursuing a Masters in Public Health degree along with my DMD because to me it is a great opportunity to experience the community while interacting with the lives of many other people as well as be involved in improving the great need for dentists in areas that need it the most.

My only piece of advice as of right now is to don't get so caught up in your end goal that you miss the opportunities to become a better and more well-rounded person with stories to share along the way. Take time to enjoy the accomplishments you have made as well.

Latoya A. S. Luke

HP Alumnus, Latoya transferred from Barry to Nova Southeastern University at the end of Spring 2014 to begin her Dental Medicine degree.



Current Events

World Leaders Condemn Murder of Putin Critic Boris Nemtsov



Nemtsov attending a rally in memory of a killed Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya in 2009.



The body of the opposition leader lying near St. Basil's cathedral.

World leaders such as David Cameron and Barack Obama have condemned the murder of the Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, who was shot dead on February 27, 2015 in Moscow.

Nemtsov, a former deputy prime minister and critic of the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, was shot four times in the back by a killer in a passing car.

Prime minister of the United Kingdom, David Cameron, said the murder must be “fully, rapidly and transparently investigated, and those responsible brought to justice.”

He continued, “His life was dedicated to speaking up tirelessly for the Russian people, to demanding their right to democracy and liberty under the rule of law, and to an end to corruption. He did so without fear, and never gave in to intimidation.”

Barack Obama called on Russia's government to conduct a “prompt, impartial and transparent investigation”, describing Nemtsov as a “tireless advocate” for citizens' rights and fighting corruption.

The murder took place in the center of Moscow on Friday evening on a bridge near St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin, two days before Nemtsov was to lead a major opposition rally in Moscow.

The police have considered many reasons for the assassination. The first is listed as “a murder as a provocation to destabilize the political situation in the country, where the figure of Nemtsov could have become a sort of sacrificial victim for those who stop at nothing to achieve their political goals.”

Also, it is possible that Islamist extremists had shot Nemtsov due to his position on the Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris; supposedly security forces were aware of threats against him from Islamist militants.

Nemtsov's allies think that this was a political killing linked to opposition to Putin and the conflict in Ukraine.

The Kremlin stated, “The president noted that this cruel murder has all the signs of a contract killing and carries an exclusively provocative character. Vladimir Putin expressed his deep condolences to the relatives and loved ones of Boris Nemtsov, who died tragically.”

In a message Putin sent to Nemtsov's mother, he said, “everything will be done so that the organizers and perpetrators of a vile and cynical murder get the punishment they deserve.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/01/world/europe/russian-authorities-say-fellow-opposition-members-may-have-killed-boris-nemtsov.html?ref=world&_r=0

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/27/russian-opposition-politician-boris-nemtsov-shot-dead-moscow-reports>

Nigeria's Boko Haram pledges allegiance to the Islamic State

According to an audio statement, the Nigerian militant group, Boko Haram pledges allegiance with the Islamic State (IS), and was posted on Boko Haram's twitter account and appeared to be by the group leader, Abubakar Shekau.

The IS group aims to establish a “caliphate”, a state ruled by a single political and religious leader according to Sharia (the Islamic law). Its leaders, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is known to his followers as Caliph Ibrahim.

In the audio message posted on Saturday March 7, 2015 the Boko Haram leader said, “We announce our allegiance to the Caliph...and will hear and obey in times of difficulty and prosperity. ”

Boko Haram, which means “Western education is forbidden” in the Hausa language, has carried frequent bombings that have left thousands of people dead, and has also attacked targets in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

On Saturday March 7, 2015 at least five blasts including several suicide bombings in Maiduguri left at least 50 people dead.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31784538>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/07/boko-haram-suicide-bombers-50-dead-maiduguri>



The main gate to a market in Maiduguri, where a suicide bomb attack took place on Saturday March 7, 2015.

Upcoming Activities:

March 10: Weekly meditation (12:30-1:00p.m.)

Petersburg, FL; 12:00—8:30p.m.)

**March 11: Guest Lecture Series:
From College to Retirement (3:00-4:30p.m.)**

March 21: Intercollegiate Daylong Retreat (9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.)

March 24: Weekly meditation (12:30-1:00p.m.)

March 11: Economics and Social Justice Lecture Series: Views on the Future of Cuba from the Inside and Outside” (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

March 24: Careers in Sports Night (4:00-6:00 p.m.)

March 12: Soup & Spirituality (6:00-7:00 p.m.)

March 25: HPSAB Meeting

March 12: Smart Talks (5:00-7:00 p.m.)

March 26: Community Engagement Symposium: Enhancing Community Engagement and Collaboration (8:15 a.m.—3:45 p.m.)

March 14: Comedy Show (9:00 p.m.)

March 28: Field trip—Vizcaya Museum

March 17: Weekly meditation (12:30-1:00p.m.)

March 19: Phi Beta Kappa Lecture—Making Sense of Contemporary China (4:30 p.m. at University of Miami); if interested, contact Dr. S.

March 29: Palm Sunday (11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.)

March 31: Weekly meditation (12:30-1:00p.m.)

March 19: Social Justice Stations of the Cross (6:00-7:00 p.m.)

Until April 30: Class of 1965 Exhibition

March 21: Concert & Parade for Fair Food (St.

Honors Program
Spring Guest Lecture Series

From College to Retirement: Financial Knowledge for the Middle Class

Mortgages, College debt, and Retirement; management of money is one of the most important skills the Millennials can learn and use to their advantage to set themselves up for success. Despite its absolute necessity, financial literacy is not explicitly taught in any classroom setting. Join the Honors Program and three panelists Mr. Charles E. Evans, professor of Finance and Economics, Mr. Dart Humeston, Director of Financial Aid, and Ms. Laura Finley, professor of Sociology, as they compare the financial prospect of this generation of students to other generations and provide information for how to best prepare for the future economic climate.



When: Wednesday, March 11th
Where: Kostka Room
Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Please RSVP by emailing Dr. Sirimangkala at
psirimangkala@barry.edu

JEFFREY WASSERSTROM

CHANCELLOR'S PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—IRVINE

MAKING SENSE OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA

PHI BETA KAPPA LECTURE
THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH AT 4:30PM
STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER, ACTIVITIES ROOM—SOUTH

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.

Alek Sayers (HPSAB Chair)

alekzander.sayers@mymail.barry.edu

Cheryl Frazier (HPSAB Vice Chair):

Cheryl.frazier@mymail.barry.edu

Paola Montenegro (Newsletter Editor):

Paola.montenegro@mymail.barry.edu

Courtney Webb (HPSAB Secretary):

Courtney.webb@mymail.barry.edu

Shade' Lovett (HPSAB Public Relations):

Shade.lovett@mymail.barry.edu

Dr. Pawena Sirimangkala

(HPSAB Faculty Advisor):

psirimangkala@barry.edu

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