

Barry
University

Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2015

Oh Finals, you're so hard
You're so hard you hurt my mind, hey Finals,
Hey Finals

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That's right. It is about that time again; the time when everyone is a great scholar, the time students actually go to the library, everyone actually opens those rented books for the first time. It's finals time.

We all know that finals can be scary; not *Scary Movie* scary, more like *Scream* scary. However, the wonderful and generous professors on campus would stop at nothing to see you succeed, so before you spend the night worrying over your test, make some time to talk to your professors in advance. The Writing and the Math Lab will make you feel like Michael Jackson, everything will be as easy as "A B C, 1 2 3." If after all that help, you still do not feel ready to take off, your classmates are probably on the same boat or rocket (tomayto, tomahto), do not hesitate to ask them to help start a study group together. Now, go out there with your new developed super plan and hit those finals where it hurts.

Remember that gifts are distributed base on who's been naughty or nice; be on your best behavior during the holidays. Who knows? Grandma might give you something more than just that beautiful hand-made sweater. If not, you can always start on those New Year's resolutions.

Happy Holidays,
Presler Maxius

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December Facts:

- * Human Rights Month
- * National Fruit Cake Month
- * Read a New Book Month

A Christmas Story for All

Although it's widely considered by many to be the celebration of the birth of Christ in today's day and age, the celebration of Christmas as we know it stems from the traditions of several different cultures. In the Norse country, it was known as Yule during the winter solstice, when males in the families would bring evergreens into the home as a sign of life, and a log would be burned in hopes of good fortune. Ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, an orgy of food and festivals in honor of the harvest god Saturn.

But did you know that early Christians didn't know when Jesus was born? It wasn't until the 3rd century that December 25th was chosen as a date to celebrate their savior's birth, a date that coincided with other pagan rituals that persisted the test of time. This led religious leaders to oppose Christmas celebrations.



Christmas as we know it didn't start until the 1800's, when Prince Albert of Germany brought to England the tradition of decorating evergreen trees in 1848. Sending Christmas cards started around relatively the same time. Giving presents originates from the religious event of baby Jesus receiving gifts from the three kings, but this significance has changed due the rise of the industrial revolution, the three kings turning into the most famous of all Christmas characters, Santa Claus. The big man in red is based on Saint Nicholas of Myra, a Dutch saint known for giving gifts referred to as SinterKlaas. A poet Clement Moore reimaged Saint Nicholas as Santa Clause when he wrote the poem, "A Night Before Christmas," which has been traditionally read on the eve of Christmas.

<http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas/videos/history-of-christmas>

Festive Holiday Movies

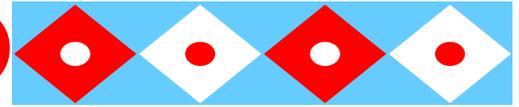
The holidays are upon us and that means taking time to create new and cherished memories with our loved ones in good cheers. Christmas is also all about the family traditions, whether it be cutting down an evergreen (Really? Who does this anymore when we should be saving trees?), decorating the tree, making gingerbread houses, or singing Christmas carols. Our personal favorite is watching movies. Here are 5 traditional holiday favorites:

- Number 1: The Santa Clause
- Number 2: The Nightmare Before Christmas
- Number 3: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- Number 4: Home Alone
- Number 5: Jingle All Way

What are your favorite holiday movies?



December 2015



2016 Honors Program Conference

Southern Regional Honors Council

March 31— April 2

Orlando, FL

Deadline: February 1st

This is the last honors conference available for application being held next year. Please inform Dr. Sirimangkala if you decide to submit.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 HP Holiday Party	4	5
6	7 Finals Week	8	9	10	11	12 Gradua- tion
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Measure your Brain Power!

How many animals can you find in the image?

Find the answer on page 10.



Honors Student News

“About a month ago Dr. Sirimangkala forwarded an email regarding the opportunity to be involved with Teach for America. Thanks to this email I was informed of this wonderful organization and the great opportunity I would have to begin my teaching career. I applied to be a Teach for America Corps member and I have recently been accepted. Thank you for always keeping us updated on all these wonderful opportunities. It has truly made a life-changing impact on my life.”

Esther Garcia

May 2016 Graduating Senior,
majoring in Psychology

Honors Thesis News

2016 Spring Engagement Project

Next year's Engaged Scholarship (ES) project will take place in March. Out of the 10 project proposal submissions by last Spring's HUM 300 students, Drs. Byrne and Sirimangkala chose Sherica Heman's project for the Spring 2016 ES project. HP students will provide mentoring and tutoring to local children at one of the "Branches" sites.

"Branches" is a non-profit organization that provides holistic services to the families and individuals of their communities. This is an afterschool program for children in low-income areas.

Look out for more details in the 2016 March issue of the newsletter!

Honors Program T-Shirts!

The first and ever HP T-shirts are coming. As early as during the final exam week or as late as the 2nd week of January 2016, look out for an e-mail announcement to pick up your own HP t-shirt. Thanks to our Dean Callaghan's support, we will soon be wearing our HP t-shirt proudly and around town.



"Lobbyist: The Influence Surrounding Marijuana Laws and Regulations"

By Samantha Lopes

My topic on marijuana laws has stayed constant throughout the entire process. As I did more and more research, I realized I wanted to complete my research on a topic that is not normally discussed. Working with Dr. Perez, he opened the door to my paper with an idea – which I ran with.

In my paper, I focused on the various groups in Washington, D.C. fighting for marijuana laws – both legalization and prohibition. I began by focusing on the history of marijuana laws – detailing the where, when, and why marijuana first became illegal. I explained the major Acts that changed the course of drug policy in the early 20th century – the Harrison Act, the Marijuana Tax Act, and the Controlled Substance Act. I, then, discussed the current status of marijuana in the United States.

Since 1996, many laws and regulations at the state level have decriminalized marijuana possession. Medical marijuana has set the precedent for legalizing both medical and recreational use of the illicit substance. In 1996, California accepted medical marijuana as a form of treatment for various illnesses – setting an example other states have since followed. In 2012, Washington State and Colorado legalized the recreational usage of marijuana – creating laws and regulations for their citizens to follow.

I discussed the role of lobbyists – elaborating on the influence lobbyists have on our politicians. Through highly paid lobbyists, politicians are provided with information on various aspects of American society. I also discussed the lobbyists in Washington in favor of continuing the prohibition of marijuana. Police Unions, Private Prison Corporations, Prison Guard Unions, the Alcohol and Beer Industries, and the Pharmaceutical Corporations are the main players in lobbying against legalization. These industries have significant reasons – mainly stemming from money – to keep marijuana illegal. I discussed the various individuals, groups, organizations, and industries in favor of legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

Thus, this thesis examined how and why large interest groups endorse lobbyists in Washington, DC today for the continual persuasion, amongst politicians and law makers, in sustaining the prohibition of cultivation, consumption, and distribution of marijuana.

Honors Program Guest Lecture Series Recap

POSITIONS WANTED

Honors Committee Student Representative

The Honors Committee is looking to fill a student representative position on the committee. The committee oversees all university-wide honor society applications and organizes the university's Honors Convocation. If you are available from 2 – 3 on Mondays and are interested in increasing your student leadership experience, please contact Dr. Sirimangkala.

HPSAB Newsletter Editor (s)

The Honors Program Student Advisory Board is looking to fill the newsletter editor position starting from the Spring Semester of 2016. This position involves creating and publishing articles pertaining to the Honors Program community. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Honors Program, please contact Dr. Sirimangkala or drop by any of the HPSAB meetings held on every other Wednesday from 12—1pm (Fall 2015 meeting schedule only). HPSAB will announce its Spring 2016 meeting schedule in January. See each month's calendar for scheduled meeting days.



On Wednesday, November 18, HP held its Fall Guest Lecture Series (GLS) on *Law Enforcement and Privacy in the Digital Age: The Function of Hyper-Surveillance*. Based on the audience's feedback, this was one of the best GLS that Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB) has organized. A total of 42 students, faculty, and staff gathered to learn more about one of the most important topic of our time.

Among the panelists were two police chiefs (Miami Beach Chief Daniel Oates and Miami Dade Director J.D. Patterson) and Dr. Laura Finley. Shade Lovett assumed her competent role as the moderator. Dr. Fernando Perez was the respondent and led the Q & A session.



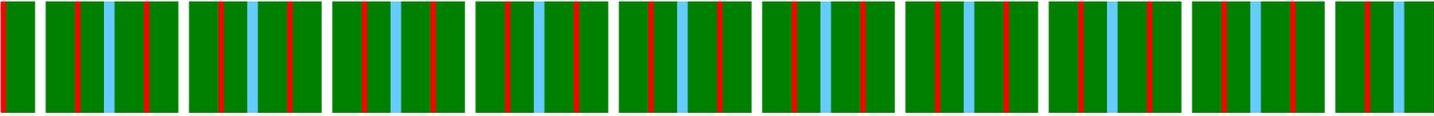
The efforts from both the panel and the respondent contributed to a lively Q & A that lasted for 40 minutes. Needless to say, this year's GLS turned out to be one of the most engaged panel discussions for HP. The panelists and respondent's participation, preparation, and enthusiasm left the audience, particularly the students, wanting to learn more about this topic. The students in attendance were also treated with a one-on-one interaction with the two leading Police Chiefs. Having Director Patterson and Chief Oates on campus was among the very best community policing efforts that is likely to have a positive long-term effects among the students.

We owe the success to everyone involved and those in the audience for this engaged presentation, open-ended dialogue, and thoughtful questions. We also received constructive feedback from two panelists and an audience member. Miami Beach Chief Oates was happy that it all worked out well for what we wanted to achieve and indicated that he would be interested in returning to future GLS. Dr. Finley thought we



did a great job in organizing this important dialogue and appreciated the invitation to return to the GLS panel. Although Dr. Sean Foreman thought more students would have attended the panel on such an important topic, he commented that a time of day for an event might have kept some students from attending.

We look forward to organizing our next GLS and welcome topic ideas from HP students and faculty.



December 2015 Graduating Honors Students

Three HP seniors will be graduating from Barry University and the Honors Program with their Bachelor of Arts degrees on December 12, 2015. Congratulations to all!

Under Dr. Lisa Koncsal's thesis supervision, Shenea Abraham (Criminology Major) is working diligently to finish the final touches of her thesis. Her thesis on *White Collar Crime: An Exploration into the System and its Enabling Technology* is based on Shenea's research interest on what Shenea described as an often omitted and under-reported crime.

Under Dr. Andrea Greenbaum's thesis supervision, Lizandra Cruz (English Major) defended her thesis successfully on April 27, 2015. The beautiful Manga narration featured in this issue was partially inspired by Lizandra's thesis research on *Japanese Symbols as Manifested in Manga: The Power of Eyes*.

Under Dr. Fernando Perez's thesis supervision, Samantha Lopes (Criminology Major) defended her Senior Honors Thesis successfully on November 30, 2015. Her thesis on *Lobbyist: The Influence Surrounding Marijuana Laws and Regulations* is highly relevant as the U.S. continues its debate on the topic.



Farewell from Samantha Lopes

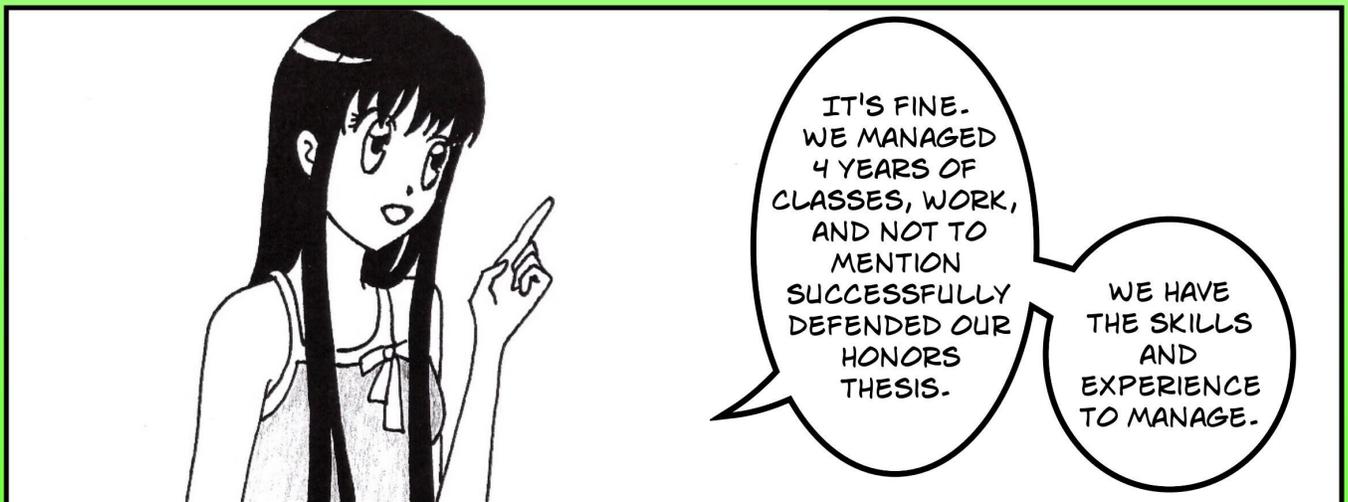
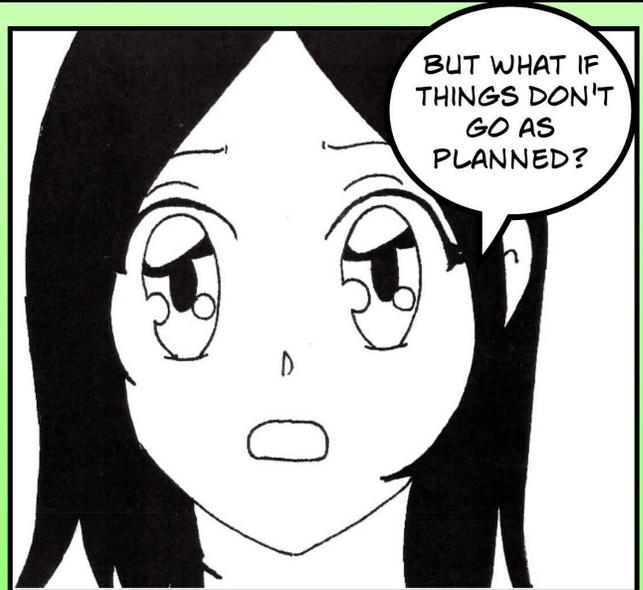
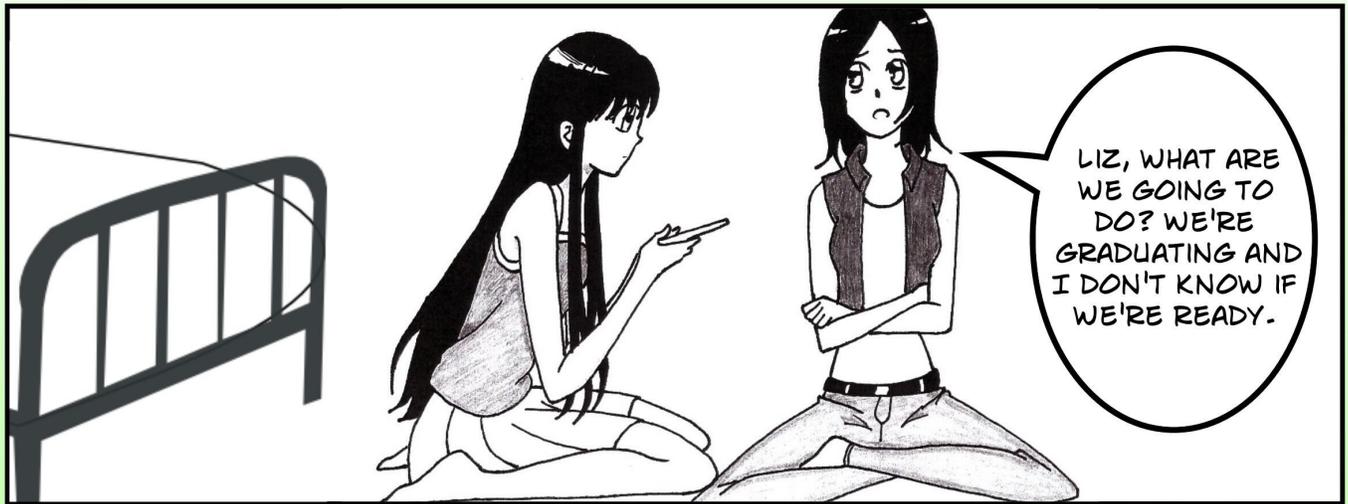
Writing my thesis paper has been one of the most rewarding experiences as an undergrad! Thank you to Dr. S for having me in the Honors Program and all of the help I have received over the last two and half years. But I truly would like to thank Dr. Romano for pushing me to joining the Honors program. As I prepare for finals and graduation, I feel a sense of nostalgia. As saddening as it is to leave behind this part of my life, I can only be excited for what the future has in store. My fellow classmates I have met in the Honors Program and the experiences gained will last a life time. Looking back on all of the classes we must take, those in the Honors Program were some of my favorite classes.

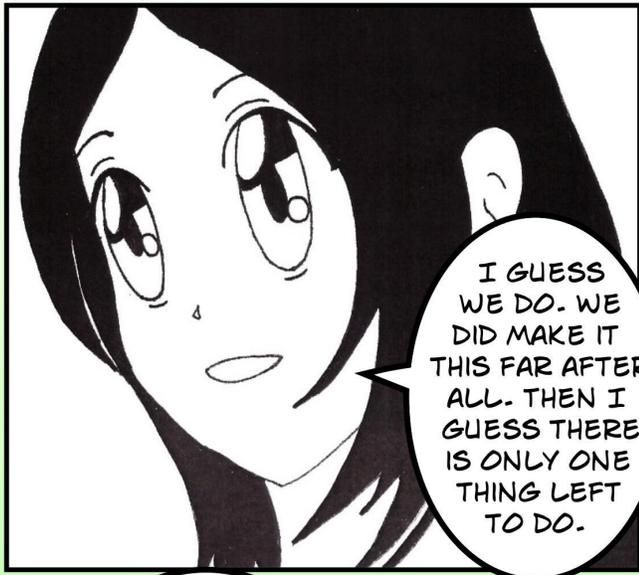
As I reflect on the last four years at Barry University, some of my best moments are from just being in the Honors Program. Moving miles away from my

parents, the Honors Program became a family for me. To the late night study sessions preparing for Dr. Tallman's philosophy final or Dr. Goehl's tests to cleaning up Hollywood Beach to Feeding South Florida, these experiences have all ended in laughter and memories to carry with me forever.

As, I am not good with goodbyes – I want to leave everyone with one piece of advice I am currently following. Life has many twists and turns. Dreams may change based on experiences, but the most important thing to never forget is the drive and passion to make a difference in the world. Follow your heart and do what makes you happy. As cliché as this may sound, you truly only get to be young once – make a bucket list and actually complete (or accomplish?) it! Conquer every obstacle and always remain true to yourself. To those graduating in May – graduation will be upon you quicker than you might think. Continue working hard and never doubt what you can accomplish.

Farewell Honors Program

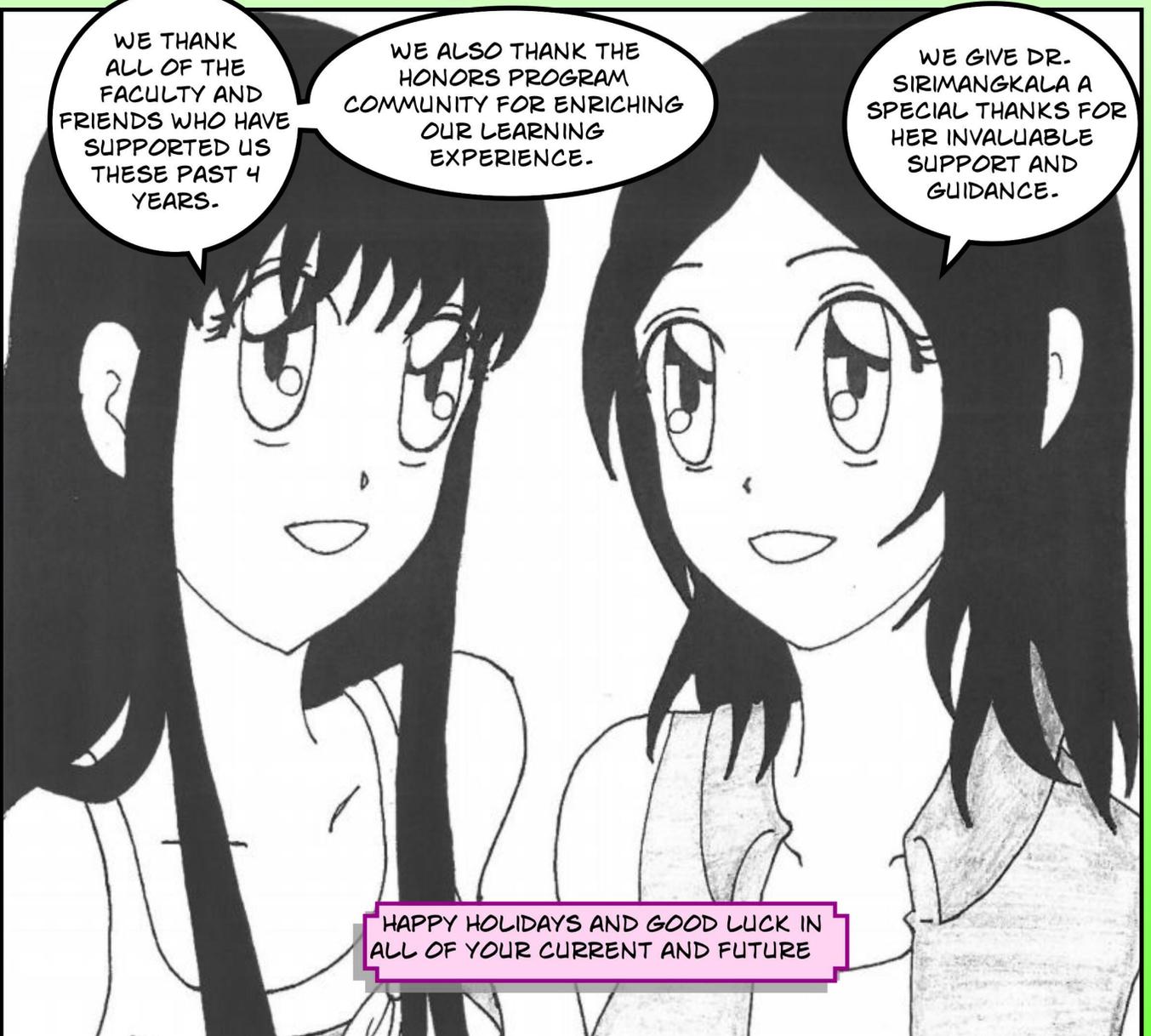




I GUESS WE DO. WE DID MAKE IT THIS FAR AFTER ALL. THEN I GUESS THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO.



YUP. SAY GOODBYE



WE THANK ALL OF THE FACULTY AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US THESE PAST 4 YEARS.

WE ALSO THANK THE HONORS PROGRAM COMMUNITY FOR ENRICHING OUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

WE GIVE DR. SIRIMANGKALA A SPECIAL THANKS FOR HER INVALUABLE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOOD LUCK IN ALL OF YOUR CURRENT AND FUTURE

Senior Salute

Senior Salute from the HP Community to Shenea Abraham, Lizandra Cruz, and Sam Lopes:

From Dr. Pawena Sirimangkala:

To Lizzy and Shenea, you will leave behind a superb quality of the newsletter that can only evolve from your devotion to excellence. It was a great experience to be working with you on the newsletter and beyond. You have no doubt raised the bar for the next editors. I am going to miss both of you so dearly and HPSAB is going to see a big impact from your graduation departure from the program. Thank you! To Sam, you have come a long way and blossomed into a reliable and independent researcher. It was a joy to see your intellectual growth and I will miss your great optimism, down-to-earth outlook in life, and big heart!

From Dr. Brad Bowers:

Having witnessed Lizandra's phenomenal intellectual and personal growth from ENG 199H through American Literature class to her Honors thesis, I will quote Ralph Waldo Emerson's letter to Walt Whitman: "I greet you at the beginning of a great career."

From Dr. Lisa Konczal:

What makes Shenea Abraham such a great student is that she is truly passionate about the issues she researches and writes about. There is no doubt that her endless curiosity and her enthusiasm to investigate complex topics will lead her toward a very successful future!

From Dr. Ruth Tallman:

I had Sam in 2 classes last spring (as well as the HP class previously). Both classes had big philosophical research papers, so poor Sam was doing double duty! She handled it beautifully, however, was always in class with a big smile, ready to participate. It was a joy to get to see her every day and hear her insights and connections about and between the two courses.

From Dr. Laura Gallo:

Shenea is always balanced, focused, kind, clever, and efficient. What a terrific work study for English and Foreign Languages!" Lizandra's discipline, creativity, writing skills, and understanding of the media have made Lizandra indispensable at the Department of English and Foreign Languages.

From Ms. Chrissie Chiarella:

When Shenea arrives to the office, I feel like my day has improved. Shenea is consistently positive, friendly, and efficient. It is a pleasure to work with her.

From Presler Maxius:

It was nice to meet and work with Shenea and Lizandra. I love the great job they did with the newsletter. I wish them the best in whatever they attempt to do after graduation.

From Bethany Dill:

Congratulations to Lizzy, Sam, and Shenea on your upcoming graduation! HPSAB wishes you the best as you transition into another chapter of life. Wherever you adventure next, you will always have a home here.



Honors Program Holiday Party

Thursday, December 3

5:00-6:30 pm

Lehman 328

Yankee Swap/White Elephant

Come join us as we celebrate the end of the Fall semester and the end of the year. See the flyer for more details on the event.

Please RSVP to psirimangkala@barry.edu by Tuesday, December 1

Brain Game Answer

There are 30 animals in total.

If you found 20 or more, that means your mind is quite active.

If you found all 30, it means



Honors Program Lab

Did you know that the Honors Program has a computer lab open to your use? Currently located in Landon 206G, 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.

Contact Us

If you'd like to contribute to the newsletter or just voice your ideas for the Honors Program, let us know!

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