

# HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2019

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Greetings to my HP family!

It's so strange to me to be writing this as a recent alumna. The month of December and the holiday season is a beautiful time as it gives us a moment to reflect on the past year and look forward to the bright future ahead. For many of us, 2018 has been filled with ups and downs; yet we can find comfort in learning from our mistakes and putting them behind us as we prepare for the new year. I hope that you all use this break to enjoy priceless time with family and recharge for the upcoming semester.

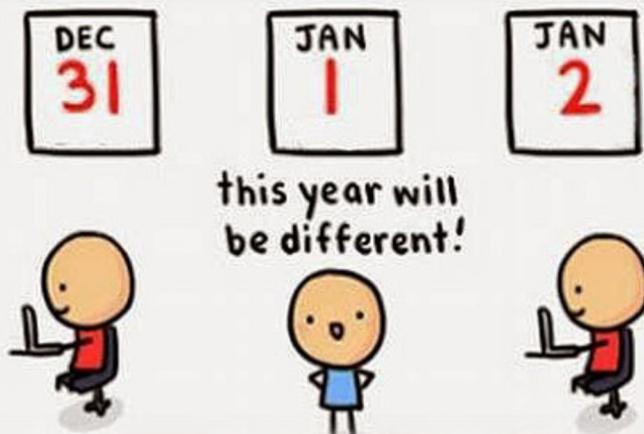
It has truly been a blessing to be a part of such an amazing, driven, educated group of young people! My time at Barry has been an absolutely enriching experience that I would not trade for the world. Thank you to everyone who played a part in my 4 years and contributed to my learning and growth. Finally, I encourage you to enjoy the time you have left in college and take on every opportunity provided by the Barry University Honors Program. I look forward to hearing all the amazing things that each and every one of you accomplish!

Best of luck and Happy New Year!

Nina Escalante

### Special points of interest:

- ◇ **Events Recap:** Stroll down memory lane as we look back at the most memorable and exciting events of the Fall 2018 semester
- ◇ **Student Spotlight:** Check out this new column that features the accomplishments of our very own HP students
- ◇ **HP Announcements:** Look out for very special and exciting announcements HPSAB has to share



### Inside this issue:

Alumni News	2
HP Events Recap	3
Student Spotlight	6
HP Faculty Interview (Dr. Lisa Konczal)	8
NSU HUM Conference	9
Literacy Corner	10
HP Announcements	11

# Alumni News

I recently graduated from Barry this past May with a B.S. in biology and a minor in chemistry. Following my departure from Miami, I began an intense two-month preparation for the MCAT, and I am now in the midst of attending medical school interviews with the hopes of matriculating next fall. Shortly after completing the MCAT, I relocated to Brooklyn, New York, and started working as a medical scribe at an outpatient clinic called Callen-Lorde Community Health Center.



This clinic specializes in providing a wide range of health care services to the LGBTQ community, which has been historically underserved due to a lack of specialized healthcare providers, social stigmas, and financial barriers. As a scribe, I have had the opportunity to interact with and learn from physicians while gaining a better understanding of primary care medicine. Immersion into this diverse environment has challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone and consider the many barriers to quality healthcare that exist in our society.

During my short time in New York, I have learned a great deal about myself and have had the opportunity to meet many influential people. I'm grateful for the many skills and experiences the honors program afforded me during my time at Barry, which have helped me in the workplace and in approaching this new challenge.

I am forever indebted to Dr. Sirimangkala, my professors, and friends. It was a great 4 years that I will never forget!

**ALAYNA GALLAGHER**

Alayna graduated from Barry University in May 2018 and successfully defended her thesis on "A Plant-Based Diet as a Preventative Method for Breast Cancer."



# Fall 2018 Guest Lecture Series



Johania, Abby, Dr. Reider, Nicole and Dr. Sirimangkala



Dr. Reider answering questions submitted by audience with moderators, Nicole and Arin



Nicole, Michi and Johania prepping lunch boxes for attendees



Nina and Abby referencing RSVP list



Dr. Sirimangkala introducing our guest speaker, Dr. Kelsey Reider

The Fall 2018 Guest Lecture Series was held Wednesday, November 14 at 12:00 pm. The selected topic was *Wildlife Responses to Climate Change in the High Tropical Andes*. Last year, the Honors Program was fortunate enough to have Dr. Kelsey Rider, a biologist who studied climate change for the past five years. Dr. Reider's research focused on climate change in the tropical Andes in Peru. Considering her bachelor's degree in Zoology from Ohio State University, Reider's passion for animals drove her to experience intense weather to witness first hand the detrimental effects of rapid climate change. Dr. Reider's presentation at the Guest Lecture Series (GLS) revealed the ways frogs of all kinds, respond to climate change, extreme conditions and different diseases in the Andes. With all the data presented from Reider's research, it is clear that climate change is more serious than we think. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn about such an important and relevant topic.

## HPSAB'S Response to this year's GLS

"It was interesting to learn about the different animals that depend on a cold climate for survival; for example, I didn't know that birds depend on the glaciers to build their nest. I really appreciate Dr. Reider's presentation because it helped me realize that global warming is a serious issue that we need to work towards resolving before it is too late."

**-Johania Charles**

"As a biology major, Dr. Reider's presentation peaked my interest in the animals that also habitat this earth and may have even shifted my focus from the human domain to a more physical and environmental sciences."

**-Nicole Rafols**

"Thank you, Dr. Reider for accepting our invitation to speak at our Guest Lecture Series. Your presentation opened our eyes to how global warming is not only affecting humans but many animal species as well. It was a call to action for our generation to begin coming up with ways to protect our wildlife. It was a great pleasure meeting you and talking with you. Good luck with your research and may it continue to create awareness of the world that we live in."

**-Abigail Solórzano**

# HONORS PROGRAM NEWLETTER

## HPSAB Luncheon



Drs. Byrne and Konczal joined HPSAB and Dr. Sirimangkala to lunch at French café Cane A Sucre on Friday, November 16, 2018. Here, we all had the chance to bond outside an educational setting while enjoying the most

delicious sandwiches. HPSAB also had the chance of receiving feedback on the GLS and ways to successfully plan a Spring GLS with a great turnout. This was a great opportunity to discuss what's in store for the Honors Program in terms of events, event planning, and student involvement. The Co-Editors also received very helpful feedback based on the conference (the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference) Dr. Sirimangkala and Dr. Byrne attended. The HPSAB members in attendance were Johania, Nina, Abby and Nicole as pictured \*left to right\*.

*"Thanks for an enjoyable lunch... It was good to see and hear our Honors Program student leaders plan ahead. They really do resemble the students we saw at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference. We are lucky to have them and to be able to interact with them in many different ways. Something to be thankful for, really, on this holiday."*

*-Dr. Byrne*



# Holiday/Graduation Party

Thursday, December 6, the Honors Program hosted its annual holiday and graduation party to celebrate a wonderful semester, the holidays and Nina's departure upon graduating. The clever theme for this year's party was "Ugly Sweater Contest" in which participants had to model their "ugliest" sweater in a fashion show like manner, hoping to win the 1st place prize. The evening also included various board games, great music –thanks to our wonderful DJ, Michi– and a very competitive game of family feud hosted and created by Abby. Special thanks to Dr. Sirimangkala, HPSAB and everyone who attended for making this one of the most unforgettable social nights hosted by the Honors Program. I mean, how can anyone forget the highlight of the evening, Dr. Sirimangkala's spectacular performance! **\*All captions containing names should be read left to right\***



Nicole Rafols  
Ugly Sweater Contest  
Winner: 1st place



HP Faculty: Dr. Konczal, Dr. Markov, Dr. Goehl and Dr. Sirimangkala



Team 1 strategizing ways to beat Team 2 while Nina and Stefan are overjoyed by their team's (team2) score



Our lovely Co-Chairs, Nina and Abby showing off their fantastic sweaters



Emma James, Ugly Sweater Contest 2nd place winner with HPSAB and Dr. S



Anastasia, David, Stefan, Dr. S, Nicole, Sophia and Gabriela



Anaya, Gabriela, Dylan, Anastasia and Emma enjoying good conversation and delicious pizza



Nicole and Arin showing great sportsmanship in the midst of intense competition, now that's what you call an Honors student



Nina, Dr. Konczal, David, Stefan and Lauren grabbing a bite



HPSAB's last photo with Nina:  
Abby, Nina, Nicole, Dr. S, Arin, Johania and Michidael



Our wonderful HP Faculty in attendance: Dr. Lubomir Markov, Dr. John Goehl, Dr. Pawena Sirimangkala, Dr. Lawrence Byrne and Dr. Lisa Konczal



HP Students and Dr. Konczal rocking their holiday wear with holiday smiles

## Student Spotlight

“The Stay Woke debate was a very exciting event that I enjoyed. Under the direction of Dr. Sirimangkala, I honed my public speaking techniques and my individual debate while placing second overall. It was very challenging as I debated a topic that I had difficulty with. I debated in the affirmative that in the era of the side chick and side dude, polygamy should be allowed. With research, I was able to create a plausible argument and this required work. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the experience and wish other students take part in the debate in the near future”

-Michidael Ceard

English major, junior, and HPSAB secretary, Michidael, was one of many students who participated in the Stay Woke debate hosted by the communications department and the Barry Buccaneer Newspaper in which she placed 2nd in the debate round and did a phenomenal job debating her chosen topic.

Congratulations, Michi!



*\*From right to left\* 1st place winner, 2nd place winner (Michidael) and 3rd place receiving certificate and awards.*



*Michi introducing the idea that polygamous relations is not a moral issue*



# Alumni Spotlight



Former Student Ambassador and HPSAB Co-Chair, Nina Escalante, successfully defended her thesis, November 30th on "The Underrepresentation of Women in Belize's Public Sector Leadership." Nina also graduated with a major in Communication and Media Studies December 15, 2018 at the James L Knight Center. We are proud of all her accomplishments here at Barry and look forward to hearing back in future Alumni news.

"Being an international student, I wanted to focus on a current, prevalent issue in my home country. I've also always been interested in learning more about the stratification of women within society so I took this opportunity to further educate myself. What better way to study female leadership in Belize than to speak to the women themselves? As soon as I chose the topic and drafted a proposal, I went through the process of approval by the Institutional Review Board. The goal of this study was to explore the lack of female representation in the public sector and underscore their importance/contributions. The research conducted was mixed-methods. For the qualitative portion of the study, I interviewed nine women of various sectors who were either Ministers, CEOs, Heads of Departments or Deputy Heads of Departments. For the quantitative portion of the study, a 20 question, 5-point Likert-scale survey was distributed online via (non-probability) volunteer sampling. Fifty participants were recruited and asked questions relative to their perception of women's underrepresentation. Initially, I was under the impression that the implementation for a quota-system could be used to alleviate women's underrepresentation. Surprisingly, female leaders were not as supportive of this idea. Women do not want to be placed into a position simply because of their gender, rather, they want to know that they are the most qualified person for the job. Although the results may not be immediate, mentorship and education of young girls was suggested as a method of alleviation. For future study, focus should be placed on women in the political realm and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields as they seem to face more of a glass ceiling."

## Word of Advice

1) Always be prepared and organized! Writing a thesis is time consuming, be sure not to underestimate time needed; from little details on formatting to summarizing a literature review, it's all an integral part of your research!

2) Communicate with your thesis advisory committee. There's nothing worse than showing up to defense day and realizing one of your board members never heard from you all semester. These professors are here for us, they are more than willing to advise and help us along the way - use your resources!

3) Enjoy the process! You chose your topic and did the research.. you're writing and researching about what you're passionate about - enjoy it.



Nina and Thesis Committee \*left to right\*, Dr. V. Berdayes, Dr. K. Nelson, Nina, Dr. P. Sirimangkala, Dr. L. Byrne and Dr. L. Finley

## Dr. Konczal Professor of Sociology and Criminology



Lisa Konczal, Professor of Sociology and Criminology, teaches courses in sociology, juvenile delinquency, perspective consciousness and social justice research methodology. She has worked a number of years with Barry, however as a first time Honors Faculty member, Dr. Konczal taught the SOC 394H: America in the World in the fall 2018 semester, which included topics of the current relations of power and inequality in the world compared to that of the United States. Dr. Konczal has been an active professor of the Honors program, and her constant support and attendance have been greatly appreciated by staff and students alike.

### ***How did you end up teaching sociology and criminology at Barry?***

Well, I went to a small college in Michigan. After two years, I transferred to Florida International University where I received my bachelor's degree in International Relations and a minor in Spanish. I was always interested in immigrant cultures, so I moved to Miami for that. I then received my Master's and Doctoral degrees in Sociology. After, I looked for professor positions in the Miami area and Barry University had a position open. I have currently had this position for 15 years.

### ***What will a student expect to learn in SOC 394H?***

This course is specifically focused on social stratification with an international focus. Students should expect

to gain the sociological perspective, understand inequality, and the social influences that surround it. The readings in the course were chosen by things I have been exposed to in my academic journey and I think students would enjoy learning about.

### ***What do you enjoy most about teaching in the Honors program?***

The students in the Honors program are bright, hard-working, independent, and passionate about the topics taught. Their excitement about the topics I teach make them very good students and gives the classroom a totally different dynamic.

### ***What tool do you think is important for Honors Program students to have in preparation for their thesis?***

Students should learn more about research methods and techniques in gathering empirical information. Finding reliable sources is also very important.

### ***What advice do you have for students who are afraid for what will happen after graduation from Barry?***

Following your passion makes it easier. Realize that everyone has these emotions at some point but keep your eyes on the prize and have a plan that is going to carry you through. Remember that you also have to get through the things you don't like to reach your goal.

Interview Conducted by Michidael Ceard, HPSAB Secretary

## Crossroads of the Transatlantic

### Registration Fee

- ◇ NSU students: No charge
- ◇ Non-NSU students: \$25 \*All students, NSU and non-NSU, must complete and submit a registration form. Lunch will be provided.

### Important Dates

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** Friday, January 18th, 2019

**Acceptance Notification:** Friday, February 1st, 2019

**Registration Deadline for Presenters:** Friday, February 22nd, 2019

### Possible Topics Include:

- Law-making in the Americas
- Ethics and national security
- Historicizing national security
- Expanding the boundaries of genre and medium
- Reshaping transatlantic studies through digital humanities
- Informing transatlantic studies through interdisciplinarity
- The politics of language, translation, and code-switching
- Postcolonialism/Imperialism
- Invasions of ideology
- Shifting borders, permanent boundaries
- Conflict representations in media
- Mobility and crisis in the Americas
- Exchanges between the Old World and New World
- Influences of indigenous cultures
- Conceptions of self/other
- False memories, forged identities
- Transgression, fluidity, and forbidden territories in politics and identity

**Student Conference Saturday, March 23rd, 2019  
Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale**

**Call for Papers !!**

“This conference builds on the concept of South Florida as the crossroads of a Transatlantic world and asks students to develop presentations that explore the humanities and this convergence of cultures, values, and ideas not only in South Florida but throughout the Americas. The Humanities Student Conference strives to incorporate diverse perspectives and topics from a range of humanities fields including history, philosophy, literature, languages, cultural theory, and the arts. We also invite papers in legal studies, political science, national security, communication, conflict resolution studies, and international relations when approached with a humanities lens. Undergraduate and graduate students from all academic institutions are invited to submit abstracts of 150 words or less to Dr. Andrea Shaw Nevins [andrshaw@nova.edu](mailto:andrshaw@nova.edu) no later than January 18th, 2019.”

**For more information, please go to <https://cahss.nova.edu/departments/hps/community/index.html> or Email Dr. Andrea Shaw Nevins [andrshaw@nova.edu](mailto:andrshaw@nova.edu)**

**Organized by the Department of History and Political Science & the Department of Literature and Modern Languages at NOVA**



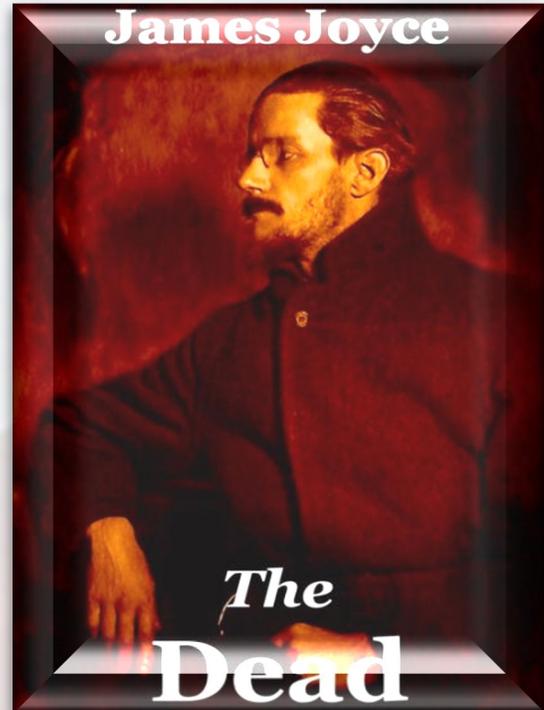
## LITERACY CORNER BY MICHAEL CEARD

### “The Dead” by James Joyce

The perfect novella for this new year happens to be “The Dead” by James Joyce. Originally published in his *Dubliners* collection in 1914, this novella is comical, satirical and heavy with thematic issues that any person would enjoy. This novella is nothing short of an enjoyable read.

The novella begins at a holiday party at an Irish family’s home. It follows the evening through the eyes of Gabriel Conroy who happens to be a scholar and teacher. Through his eyes, we learn about the other characters- his wife, aunts, and drunkard uncle. Through these characters, cultural relevancy in a British context is explored. The evening is filled with funny things that cause laughter and enjoyment among the group. However, the most important event happens at the end of the novella. Gabriel’s wife, Gretta Conroy, gets emotional after hearing a song played at the dinner party. Later that evening, Gabriel questions her about her emotions. She finally reveals that the song reminds her of her ex-boyfriend Michael Furey, who died waiting outside of her window in the cold. Gabriel then describes stark images that bring up hurt and loneliness as he basks in the memory and shadow of Michael Furey’s legacy.

The thematic issues brought up in the novella can relate to anyone who reads it.



Curl up with this novella that can be easily found on the public domain and laugh at the little innuendos and jabs planted by Joyce for the enjoyment of his readers. It is not a difficult read; however, the thematic issues explored in the text makes it an enjoyable one.

Joyce writes that Gabriel’s “soul swooned softly as he heard the snow falling faintly, through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead.”

I hope that you feel this way too as you read James Joyce’s “The Dead.”

## HP Announcements

Happy New Years!

Spring Semester begins **January 14, 2019**, we hope to see you all happy and Healthy!



### Meet and Greet

Celebrate the beginning of the Spring Semester with your fellow HP peers. Meet the professors and members of HPSAB for the new year!

Food and beverages will be provided

Mandatory Honors Event

**January 23 @ 2pm**

**Location: TBA**

### HPSAB Positions for the Fall 2019

In preparation for the new year, HPSAB would like to announce available positions for August 2019.

Social Media Director

Two Newsletter Co-editors

Any willing students that would like to form the Newsletter Committee

We are looking for viable candidates that have demonstrated leadership in the classroom and amongst their fellow classmates. Those who are interested please reach out to your buddies, and of the HPSAB members, or email Dr. Sirimangkala: [psirimangkala@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangkala@barry.edu)

As an HPSAB member, you will assume the responsibilities of meeting regularly to discuss events and organization of the Honors Program. Being an active participant and a proper representative is pertinent to the position.

Follow Us for More Information and Updates!



@bu\_honorsprogram