

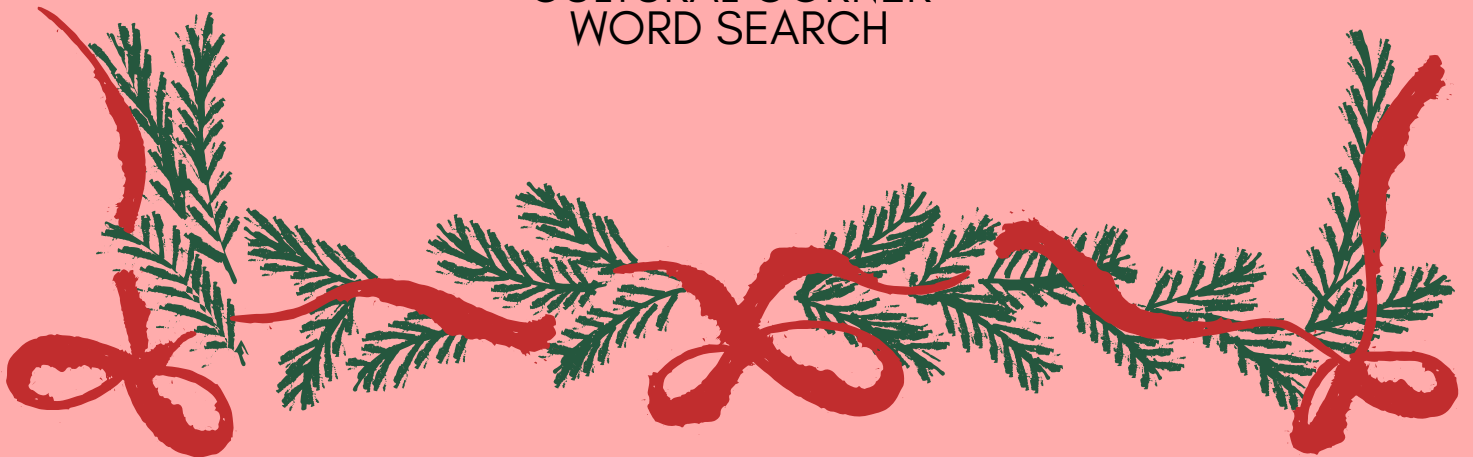


*Honors Program  
Newsletter*

**NOVEMBER**

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# Greetings



Hi everyone, Caleb here! November is always a reflective time because we're finally catching our breath before the semester's end. In the spirit of the season, this month's "Cultural Corner" explores experiential opportunities and how different cultures express gratitude. I'm excited to share some stories that help inspire us as we head into the final stretch.



Hey guys! Kaiden here. As the semester comes to a close, I encourage you all to remember the people who were really there for you. Reach out to them, let them know you appreciate them, and remind them how much they mean to you.




Hi everyone! I'm Viviana. The editor-in-chief of the newsletter. This edition is all about gratitude—looking back on what (and who!) made this semester worth it. Take a moment to reflect on what others have shared and reflect on what you're grateful for too.


# Thanksgiving & Christmas



*Holiday Wishes from the Honors Program*

*As the semester winds down and the days cool down here in Miami Shores, we find ourselves in that special time of year where we reflect on how far we've come and look forward to the celebrations ahead.*

First, as we head into the  Thanksgiving break, we want to express our deepest gratitude to you, our Honors students. Whether you are spending this week enjoying a feast with family, catching up with old friends, or simply enjoying a well-deserved nap, we hope your Thanksgiving is filled with warmth and reflection.

When we return, the sprint to the finish line begins! As the campus lights up for the season, we want to wish you an early  Merry Christmas and a festive holiday season. We know this time of year comes with the pressure of finals, but we hope you also find moments of peace and joy amidst the studying. May your break be filled with festive traditions, time with loved ones, and the excitement of a fresh start in the New Year.

*From HPSAB, we are proud of what you have achieved this fall.*

*Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Good Luck on Finals!*



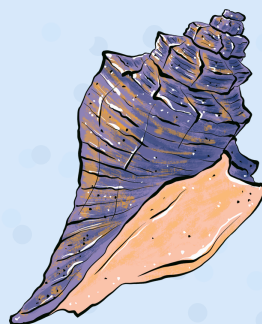
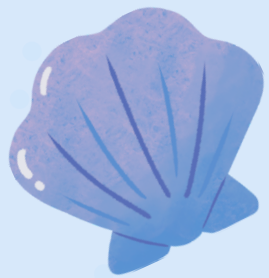
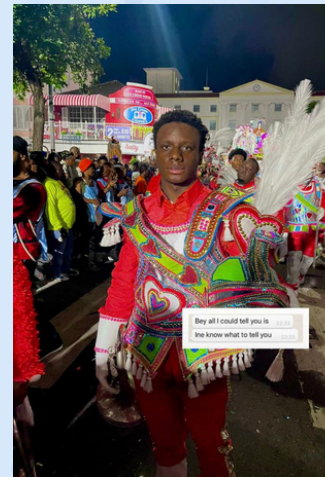
# Christmas in The Bahamas

By: Kaiden Moss- Moultrie

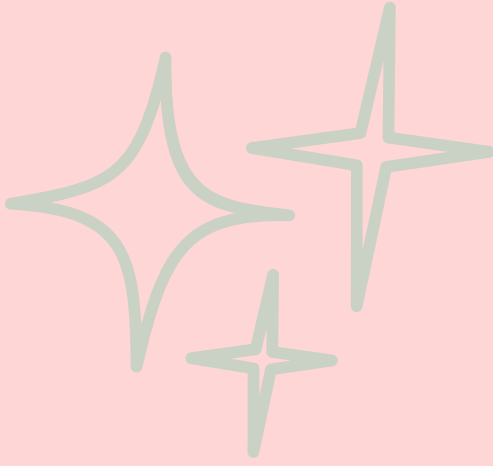
Nassau is only a short 40-minute flight from Miami, making the Bahamas one of the most accessible places to enjoy a tropical Christmas. Christmas in The Bahamas is so much more than just a holiday. It is a celebration of culture filled with family traditions and community spirit. Bahamians celebrate Christmas under warm skies, the swaying of palm trees, and the rhythm of goat-skin drums. It is a blend of heritage and festivity that makes Christmas in The Bahamas so special.

Christmas in The Bahamas would not be complete without Junkanoo. Celebrated on Boxing Day in the early hours of the morning, the streets come alive with colorful costumes, brass horns, whistles, and the deep bass of the drums. Junkanoo groups like the Saxons and the Valley Boys spend all year preparing their themes, costumes, and choreography to compete for the national title. Junkanoo dates back from the 18th century, when enslaved Africans were granted a day-off during the holiday season. They took to the streets to celebrate, creating costumes from whatever materials they could find, and that spirit lives on today.

As an island gyal, I am beyond excited to go back home and celebrate the holiday season filled with amazing food, festive gatherings, and some good ol' rake-n-scrape music. I would recommend that everyone experience a Christmas holiday in the tropical Bahamas at least once in their life.



# What are We Grateful for?



**"Getting Dr.Riva as my professor!"- Danielle Hansen**

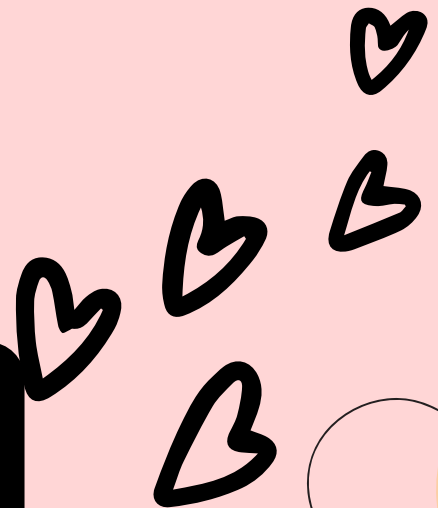
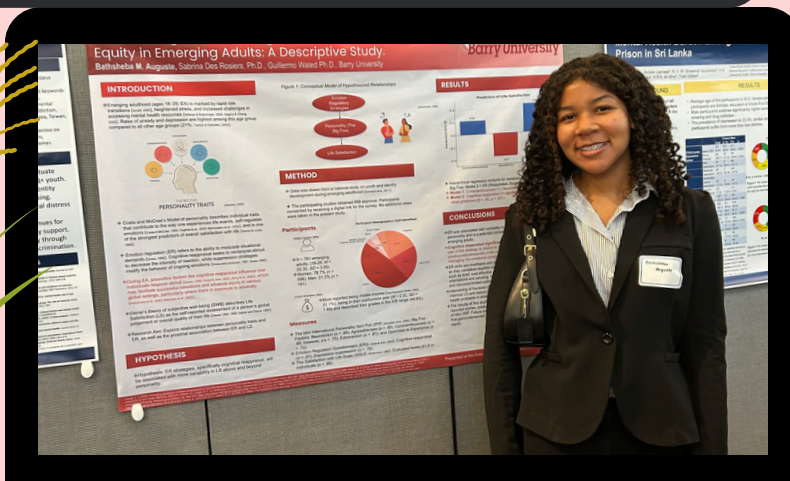
**"Being able to talk to professors who understand "-Lydia Walton**

**"Grateful for a safe and successful semester! I'm passing all my classes "- Bathsheba Auguste**

**Yes, I participated in all of the honors events so far and I have enjoyed all of them. The events are much more interactive than in the last years and I like that it's starting to feel like a family.- Danielle Hansen**

**"Bingo night" -Lydia Walton**

**"Presented research at Duke University!"- Bathsheba Auguste**



# Is Die Hard a Christmas Movie?

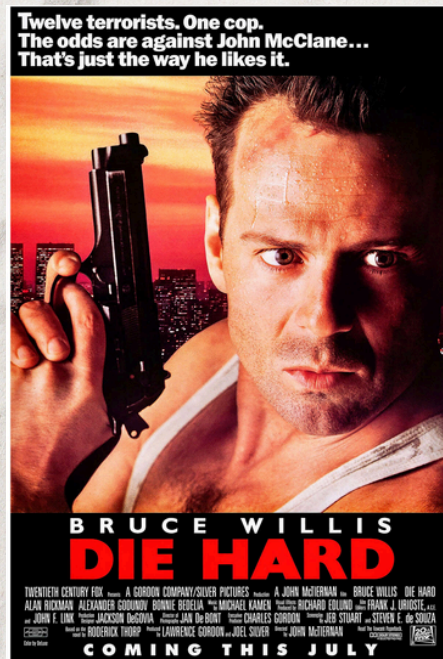
Die Hard, starring Bruce Willis as a New York City cop, becomes entangled in a terrorist attack that takes place during an office party on Christmas eve. Every Christmas season for almost four decades, we hear the same debate; Die Hard: is Die Hard christmas movie or not? This year, let us put this debacle to an end.

## Holiday Elements

To many viewers, this action classic contains several themes commonly associated with Christmas movies. First, the obvious: the entire story takes place on Christmas Eve during a holiday party. The setting is filled with holiday decor, and the seasonal backdrop plays a major role in shaping the film's atmosphere.

Second, the movie incorporates plenty of holiday music and references. One of John McClane's most famous lines—"Now I have a machine gun. Ho Ho Ho."—is said with festive Christmas music like "Let It Snow," in the background, reinforcing the holiday tone.

Finally, the film explores values traditionally linked to Christmas. Themes of love, family, and forgiveness are sprinkled throughout the story. These are all elements we look for in classic Christmas movies, and Die Hard delivers them all.



## Survey Results

To reach the largest audience, I decided to send out a survey. Out of 15 responses, 75% of you considered Die Hard a Christmas movie, rating it above a 3 on the "Christmassy scale." Most respondents agreed that a film doesn't need to focus entirely on Christmas to qualify as a Christmas movie. Many also shared that Die Hard feels appropriate to watch at any time of year, regardless of the season.

For those who were adamant that it isn't a holiday film, the reasoning was clear: a true Christmas movie must center specifically on Christmas itself. As one respondent put it, "Die Hard is more of an action thriller. It's not a movie to get you in the holiday spirit."

## Conclusion

In the end, the choice is ultimately up to you. If you prefer to stick with the traditional and predictable holiday classics, then Die Hard may not feel like a Christmas movie to you. However, if you're a bit more adventurous, and willing to embrace a holiday film with explosions instead of elves, then Die Hard just might earn a spot on your Christmas watchlist.

It's 2025! It's time to step out of your comfort zone, shake things up, and make bold choices. After all, who says Christmas can't come with a little action?

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

THOSE WHO THINK DIE HARD IS A CHRISTMAS MOVIE AND THOSE WHO ARE WRONG

**"Christmas is central to the story and not just background. The story also takes place on Christmas Eve."**

**-Anonymous**

# Wake-me-up

# PEPPERMINT MOCHA

With finals fast approaching, here is a quick and delicious recipe for a sweet drink that will also keep you up for late night studying!



## Ingredients

- Milk
- Brewed Coffee
- Candy Mint
- Hot Chocolate Powder
- Sugar

## Directions

1. Brew strong coffee
2. Mix in cocoa powder
3. Add desired amount of milk and sugar
4. Mix in a peppermint candy
5. Enjoy

Note:


If you don't have these items on hand, make a quick trip to the Union Market



# Cultural Corner

by Caleb Gardner

## Día de las Velitas



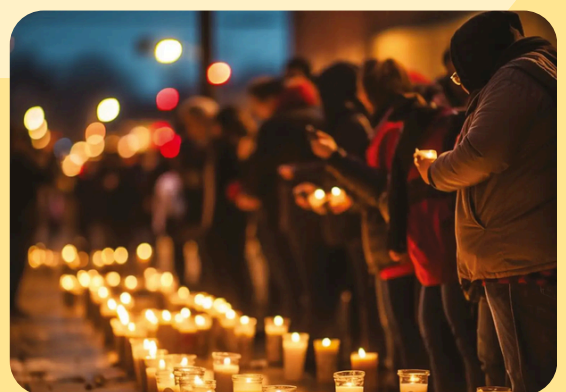
*On the evening of December 7th, the streets of Colombia undergo a magical transformation. This is Dia de las Velitas (Day of the Little Candles), the unofficial start of the holiday season.*

*As the sun sets, families place hundreds of candles and colorful lanterns (faroles) on porches, balconies, and sidewalks. It isn't just for show and in many homes, each candle lit represents a specific wish for the coming year. It turns a solitary hope into a massive, glowing display of community spirit.*

*Living in Miami, you don't need a passport to witness this. With our large Colombian population, you can often spot these flickering lights in neighborhoods like Doral and Kendall.*

*As we head into finals week, this tradition offers a perfect reminder that even a small light can cut through the darkness. Whether you observe the holiday or not, take a moment to "light a candle" for your goals this week.*

*Let's finish the semester bright!*



# Cultural Corner

Featuring Saphira Etienne  
Fall '24

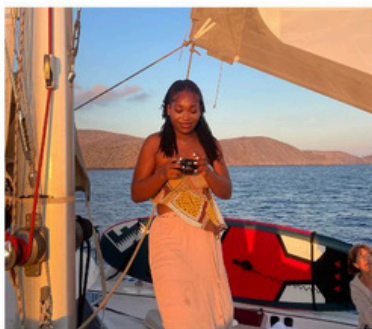
Cultural Corner

## my study abroad

IN GREECE

Saphira Etienne

This time last year I was living in the beautiful city of Thessaloniki, Greece for four months while traveling, attending classes, and having the time of my life. Here are some highlights, and what I learned along the way:



I visited:

Istanbul, Turkey

Paphos, Cyprus

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Budapest, Hungary

Rome, Italy

Berlin, Germany

Krakow, Poland

Prague, Czech Republic



I was miles outside of my comfort zone, running my first ever 5K race and hiking the infamous Mt Olympus. It was the hardest thing I have ever done, and I will never do it again. But I made it!

# Cultural Corner

Featuring Saphira Etienne  
Fall '24

## Cultural Corner

I learned Greek to count as my foreign language credits.

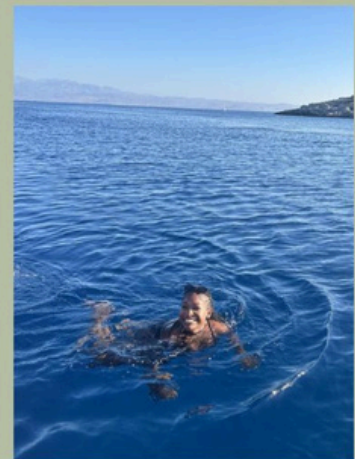
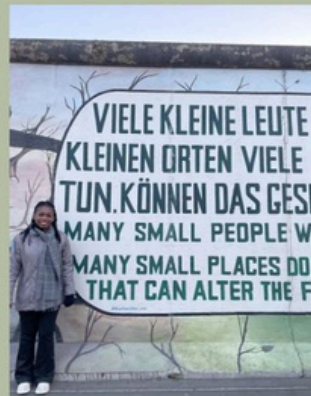
Here are some common greetings!

Γειά σου (Hello, formal)  
Καλημέρα (Good morning)  
Ναί (Yes)  
Όχι (No)  
Ευχαριστώ (Thank you)



I voted from abroad!

Me at the Berlin Wall!



Swimming in the Aegean Sea!

All in all, studying abroad was one of the best decisions I have ever made and undoubtedly worth the investment. I highly encourage everyone to do it (feel free to reach out with any questions).

My worldview has been changed forever, and I now crave to see more of the Earth. Until we meet again, Greece!

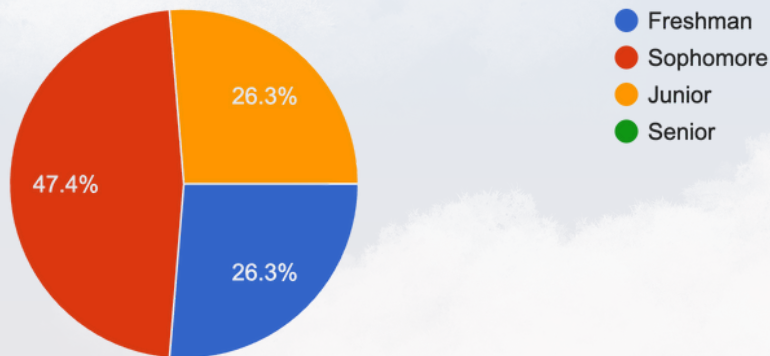


# Cultural Corner

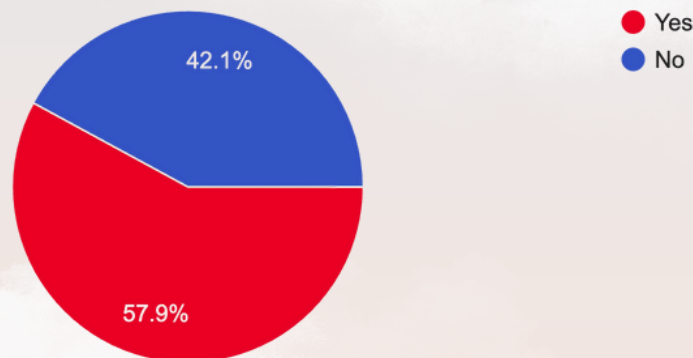
## Survey Responses

(From our former survey)

Year:



Have you heard about Barry University's Study Abroad program?



On a scale of 1 to 5, how interested are you in participating in a study abroad program?

68.4% chose 5, 15.8% chose 3, and 5.3% chose 1, 2, and 4.

# Word Search

B C H R I S T M A S E T  
U A H J O L L Y N O L F  
C S R O G R A D E S F I  
K A N R N I P E A C E N  
Y N O T Y O N O L G O A  
T T V H A U R G R I N L  
H A E M E N N S S N O S  
E C L I I S I I O M O X  
S L X A T L I V V I B T  
I A T M H R E S E L A R  
S U O I E W R E A T H E  
X S Y J O Y X B U C S E

## Word List

### Barry & Honors Life

- BARRY
- HONORS
- THESIS
- FINALS
- GRADES
- BUCKY
- MIAMI

### Christmas & Winter

- CHRISTMAS
- SANTA
- CLAUS
- TREE
- ELF
- JOY
- PEACE
- WREATH
- JOLLY
- NOEL

### Bonus Words:

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