Honors Program Newsletter

OCTOBER

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Greetings



Hey everyone, Caleb here! I just wanted to formally introduce myself as one of the writers for our Honors newsletter. You'll usually find me working on our "Cultural Corner" page, sharing stories and experiences from around the globe. I'm also happy to contribute to many other areas of the newsletter to help bring each issue to life. I'm excited for a great year with you all!



Hey everyone, I'm Carol! I'm excited to introduce myself as one of the writers for our Honors newsletter! You'll usually find me highlighting our amazing students through student spotlights, celebrating their accomplishments, and keeping you updated on all the exciting events and opportunities coming up in the Honors Program. I love being able to showcase what makes our Honors community so special, and I'm looking forward to sharing all the great things happening throughout the year!

WELCOME



We are so excited to welcome you to another wonderful year in the Honors Program! Whether you are joining us for the first time or continuing your Honors journey, we are thrilled to have you as part of our community. The Honors Program is a place to learn, grow, connect, and challenge yourself while building meaningful relationships along the way.

This newsletter will keep you connected to upcoming events, important opportunities, student highlights, and everything happening within our Honors community. We hope you'll take advantage of all that this year has to offer, step outside your comfort zone, meet new people, and make memories that last. Here's to an exciting year ahead, we're so happy you're here! 💛

by Carol Sacco

WELCOME BACK EVENT!

We kicked off the year with our Honors Welcome Event! It was wonderful getting to meet one another, connect with new and returning students, and start the year together as a community. One of the highlights was our LEGO competition, where everyone got to show off their creativity and teamwork!

A huge congratulations to our winners, and a special shoutout to everyone who participated, we loved seeing all of your creative builds. What a great way to welcome everyone to another exciting year in Honors! ✨

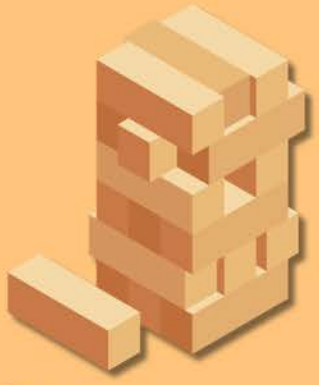
by Carol Sacco



Samya Rosario Miriam Karten Alejandro Montejo D'andre Jamieson

GAME NIGHT FUN!









9/24/2026



Our Honors Game Night was filled with laughs, friendly competition, and lots of fun! From intense UNO matches and carefully stacked Jenga towers to some hilarious rounds of Twister, there was never a dull moment.

We also enjoyed some delicious and refreshing mocktails while playing, which made the night even more fun! It was the perfect chance to unwind, connect with fellow Honors students, and make some great memories together. We had an absolute blast and can't wait for the next one!

by Carol Sacco

HONORS STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

What happens when artificial intelligence stops simply assisting us and begins acting on our behalf?

That question was among those explored by Barry University Honors students Josiah Manners, Alessandro Pellegrino, and Casey Simpson at Sibos 2026 in Miami Beach, a global financial services conference bringing together leaders in banking, payments, technology, and innovation. Manners and Pellegrino serve as Co-Treasurers of the Honors Student Advisory Board, while Simpson serves as Co-Chair. All three attended as members of Barry University's Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), which represented the School of Business at the conference. The Barry delegation was also joined by international exchange students — two from France and two from Germany — adding a valuable global perspective to conversations already centered on the increasingly interconnected nature of finance and technology.

by Josiah Manners

More on the next page...



HONORS STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

Throughout the conference, discussions surrounding AI moved beyond what the technology can do to a more pressing question: What happens when we actually trust it to act? As financial institutions explore increasingly autonomous systems, issues of authority, accountability, and trust become just as important as speed and efficiency.

For the Honors students, Sibos offered an opportunity to see topics often explored in the classroom – AI, finance, ethics, emerging markets, and technology – debated by the people actively shaping their real-world application. Surrounded by classmates and international peers, the experience reinforced that the future of finance will demand not only technical innovation, but also the ability to think across cultures, disciplines, and markets. It was a reminder that Honors education is not only about understanding what is changing, but also about asking the deeper question: What is that change ultimately for?

by Josiah Manners

HONORS HALLOWEEN MOVIE SUGGESTIONS



Dive deeper into scientific ethics, failed experiments, and responsibility of researchers. Perfect for those Honors students conducting research or majoring in science.

Explore various sociological issues like racism, inequality, and microaggressions through this film that challenges how we view society. A perfect watch for those honors students taking SOC 394H!





Watch and pay attention to symbolism beyond the surface. Focus on themes of identity, neglect, and idealising illusions. Great for Honors students taking ENG 358H.

By Kaiden Moss-Moultrie

Cultural Corner

International Student Spotlight

Meet Chelsea, an international honors student from Trinidad and Tobago! If you haven't seen her around campus supporting students as a Resident Assistant, you've likely felt her impact. A dedicated student leader deeply involved in campus life, Chelsea empowers others through the Women's Leadership Network and serves as a Faith Justice Fellow with Ministry and Community Outreach. She is passionate about bringing people together and making a positive difference. Enjoy her inspirational article below! - Caleb Gardner

Chelsea St. Rose on the inspiration of her Senior Thesis

I've always believed that the most patriotic thing one can do is be critical of their own country. I'm not sure where that belief came from. Was it from reading the Hunger Games at ten or was it due to my mother's influence? Or all those projects she'd give me in addition to what I was learning in my Social Studies classes? No matter what it was its that belief that has guided me throughout my undergraduate experience. It's that belief that has led me to bounce around on the topic of my Honors thesis so much.

It started out as a study of the commercialization of Carnival, another topic I feel strongly on. It's a topic that deserves the full attention of every Caribbean person, of everyone who partakes in our culture, and of any lover of history. Yet I changed the topic two years ago during the summer. That particular summer I was at home in Trinidad pretty much only working and sleeping. Like most people my age I spent whatever free time I had on social media and as I was on Instagram I saw this wave of Trinidadian women, many of them my own peers, posting missing flyers of different girls.

By Chelsea St. Rose

More on the next page...







Cultural Corner

International Student Spotlight



Chelsea St. Rose on the inspiration of her Senior Thesis

Unfortunately this wasn't the first time in my life that I'd seen it happen. This wasn't the first time that I'd seen five different missing girls on my feed and on the news but something this time just made me feel hopeless. It made me feel like I had no voice, until suddenly something just came over me to look at my Honors thesis again to distract myself from that feeling. When I opened that doc, I just started typing, and all the feelings I'd kept to myself for years came out. Suddenly, I was staring back at an entire page on femicide in Trinidad and Tobago. I felt like I had a voice, and that by doing my Honors thesis on this I'd be able to contribute something, so that this wave of missing girls, and the sadness associated with it, wouldn't be the reality for someone else.

Earlier I said that being critical of one's government is the most patriotic thing we can do. I believe that, as someone who in her thesis is planning on examining the role of institutional failure and cultural norms in upholding the culture of gender based violence and femicide in Trinidad and Tobago. It's not a question I'm asking to speak ill of my country, a place I love so dearly. I'm asking a deeper question of what can we do to be better? What can we do so that my thirteen year old cousin as she's scrolling Instagram isn't seeing a wave of missing girls that could just as easily be her? I'm not naive enough to think that I can solve gender based violence and femicide with one thesis, but it is my hope that this research can push us as a society even a step closer to a solution and a clearer path forward.

By Chelsea St. Rose

Diwali

The full five-day festival runs from Friday, November 6 to Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Diwali, a major five-day festival of lights celebrated widely across South Asia and beyond, is one of the most vibrant cultural observances in the world. It's a time for families to gather, celebrate the victory of light over darkness, and welcome hope and prosperity for the new year.

Key Traditions

- **Lighting Diyas: Families decorate homes with clay oil lamps (diyas) and intricate floor patterns (rangoli) to invite good fortune.**
- **Sacred Rituals: Special prayers (pujas) are held to express gratitude and honor Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and wisdom.**
- **Traditional Sweets: Loved ones exchange boxes of mithai (festive sweets) and savory delicacies as symbols of joy and goodwill.**
- **Festive Celebrations: People wear new traditional clothing, light sparklers, and gather for vibrant community festivities.**

Diwali, like other fall celebrations, emphasizes unity, hope, and inner reflection, providing a glowing cultural counterpart to autumn's spookier traditions.

By Caleb Gardner





HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Autumn Greetings from the
Barry University Honors Program!

As autumn arrives, October brings a rich tapestry of history, light, and culture to our campus. While many prepare for costumes and October traditions, tracing back 2,000 years to the Celtic festival of Samhain, this season invites us to explore an even broader global story.

October also honors the enduring heritage and wisdom of Native communities on Indigenous Peoples' Day, alongside the glowing diyas of Diwali, celebrating the triumph of light and knowledge over darkness.

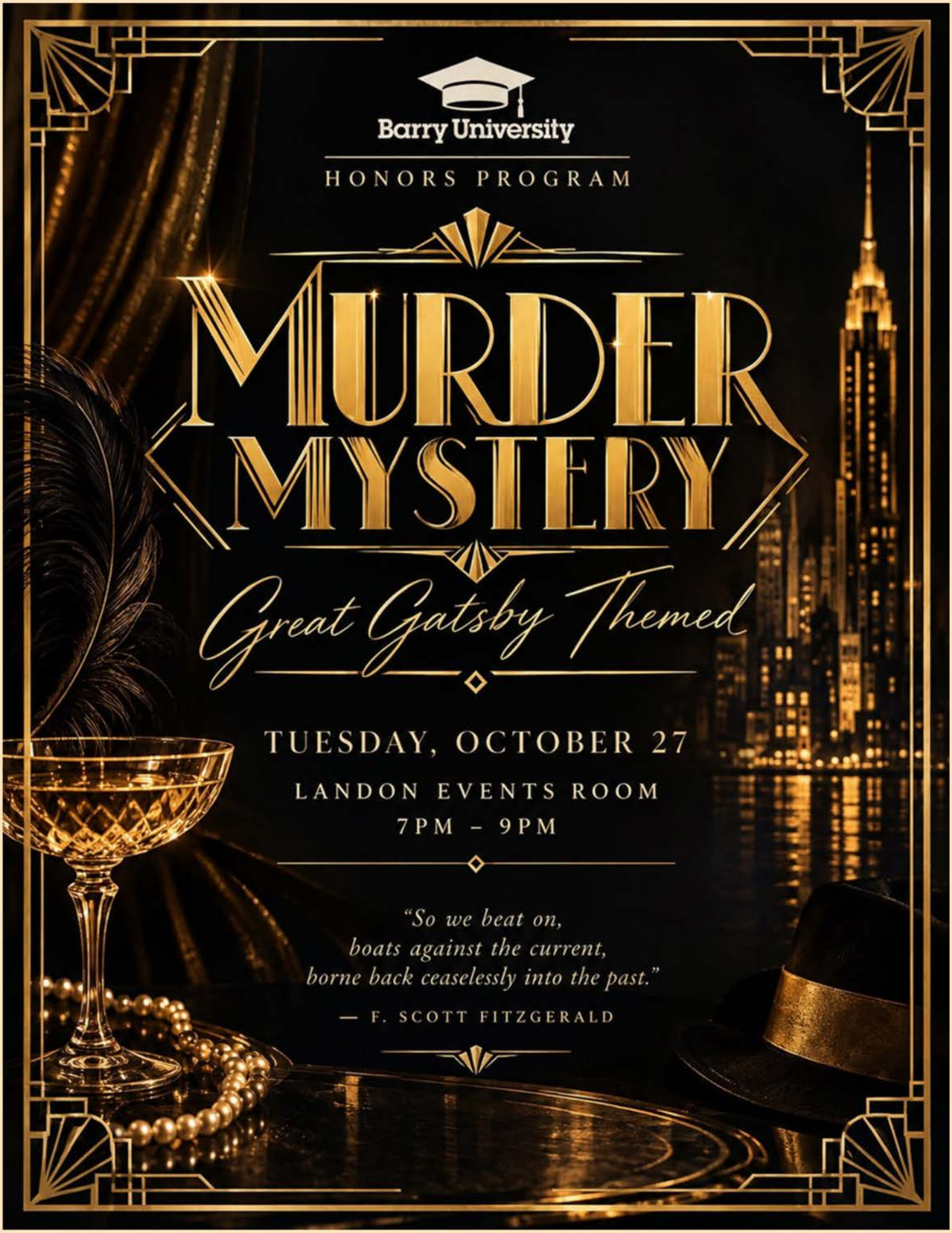
From ancient bonfires to bright holiday lights, humanity has long used gathering and storytelling to welcome new seasons. Wishing all of our Barry Honors scholars a safe, festive, and spook-tacular October!

Warmly,
The Barry University Honors Program

by Caleb Gardner



UPCOMING EVENT!



Word Search

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

Word List
Find these words in the puzzle above:

- ERUDITE
- FELLOWSHIP
- INNOVATION
- INTELLECTUAL
- ACORN
- AMBER
- EQUINOX
- FOLIAGE
- CAULDRON
- MASQUERADE
- PHANTOM
- SPECTER
- INDIGENOUS
- NAVIGATION
- RESILIENCE
- SOVEREIGNTY
- DIYA
- ILLUMINATION
- PROSPERITY
- RANGOLI



Bonus Words:

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