

# HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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## HP Greetings

**BY CO-EDITORS EMMA JAMES AND WALTER  
MACWATERS**

Hello and welcome to this beautiful spring semester! It's the season of fresh air, fresh ideas, and fresh attitudes. We can't wait to see what this new year, and new decade, will bring. This is a great time to keep your eyes open for new opportunities, and be open to new influences in your life. It's also the season of love, but not just love for a partner. This spring, be sure to have love for yourself and love for your neighbor.

With each new semester comes new experiences and new stressors. Being suddenly thrust back into our academic and extracurricular routines, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. For this reason, it's important to stay on track and keep up with responsibilities, but we also need to remember to take care of ourselves and try not to spread ourselves too thin. With that in mind, the newsletter editing team would like to wish you all luck in your lives, success in your endeavors, and safe travels during this upcoming spring break.

We look forward to what's in store for the Honors Program this semester and for semesters to come!



(above) All members of HP present at the event.

## Welcome Day Reflection

On February 8th, the Honors Program participated in our annual scholarship engagement. This year we partnered with Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI) to host a Welcome Day for refugees from countries all over the world. Students from all three Honors classes were present, each assigned a different task. HUM 199H designed flags, HUM 300H prepared games, including a game to teach basic English words and phrases, and ENG358H organized the gifts table. All classes were encouraged to bring items for donation.

Twenty Honors Program students and faculty were present, including Dr. Lawrence Byrne, who helped during the impromptu conversational English workshop and kept us all smiling with his witty jokes and banter. A good time was had by all, whether it was spent playing soccer or Jenga outside with the children, conversing inside with the parents, or just enjoying each other's company while helping in ways we could.



Pre-reflection: HP members gather around CCSI fellow Joseph Minani to answer the question: "How can I be more welcoming?"



Nicole Rafols presents one of the families with a goody bag, much to the delight of this little boy.

One of the kids examines a toy he got from the gift table, full of donations from HP students.





## Welcome Day Reflection (cont.)

"What remained most vivid for me were the faces of the refugee guests whom I had the privilege to learn about their journey to the United States and the positive reaction the Honors Program students had about their own interaction with the refugees."

— Dr. Sirimangkala



"This welcome day was full of inspiration and learning, but most importantly, it was full of companionship. There is nothing more powerfully moving than being together with people."

— Walter MacWaters



"I've never done anything like this before, and it was a wonderful experience. I particularly enjoyed playing games with the kids and helping the adults learn important English words and phrases."

— Emma James


"This was such an impactful service day and a great opportunity for the Honors Program to get together and give back in the most meaningful way."

— Johania Charles



# Faculty Interview

Dr. Sean Erwin is a professor in the department of Theology and Philosophy. He specializes in Political Philosophy, Surveillance and Technology Studies as well as Early Modern Philosophy. Dr. Erwin has been teaching the Judeo-Christine Doctrine (PHI 191H) course for the Honors Program for about two years now. His goal is to make the course as interactive as possible while also incorporating his areas of study.



## Where are you from originally?

I was born in St. Louis but grew up living in Pittsburgh, then Chicago.

## What university did you attend?

I went to Penn State for undergrad and Vanderbilt for my master's and doctoral degrees.

## How was that experience like for you?

Penn State was cold, and Nashville was warmer. It was northern versus southern culture.

## What inspired you to pursue a philosophy degree?

I was inspired by the work of Baruch Spinoza, who was a Jewish philosopher in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He wore a ring with the word "Caute" on it, which is Latin for caution. He taught me to second guess my first reaction to things. It makes you look at all options available, whether it's articulating notions in math, traditional ideas of prophecy or politics. It's a very good practice.

## What is a motto or quote that you live by?

So much of what it means to be modern depends on Niccolò Machiavelli's (an Italian philosopher) thoughts and [the] effects of his thoughts. He spoke about the fundamental conviction in the constructability of the world. His book, "L'arte della Guerra" (The Art of War), contains a dialogue between a mercenary captain and five young Florentine aristocrats understanding institution of military as being founded on creative subjective experience from that institution.

## Why do you enjoy philosophy?

Society presents people with a series of boxes and philosophy can help them develop the ability to live outside of the box or make their own.



### **How has your experience in the Honors Program been so far?**

Honors program students are the same wherever you go. It is a community within a university that transcends time and place. Being able to teach this subject matter and approach to every class (despite them being in HP or not), encourages them to think. It is easy to teach students who are capable, those who are capable of doing more should be given the opportunity to do so. When teaching regular students, I must discern where each of the students are, who needs help thinking logically. What lies beyond is [the] distinction between Honors Program students and regular students.

### **What inspired your project titled A War of One's Own?**

It's similar to Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own" but questions what a leader needs to be successful through Arma Pro Priis (Arms of One's Own). It asks the questions, what does it mean to have arms of one's own, what does Machiavelli mean by this although it appears in four of his books?

### **What are some texts relating to PHI 191H you would recommend all scholars to read?**

The Guide of the Perplexed by Maimonides is one of the most elegant philosophical texts. It is hard and gorgeously difficult, but it would help them think better.

### **What are your goals for the philosophy art class you would like to create and how would this contribute to the program?**

I would want to create an approach to art from the standpoint of an event. It would consist of four anchoring experiences using four different art forms and institutions unique to Miami, like the Miami City Ballet, which is the most diverse and one of the top five studios. It would bring a theoretical framework to the program and course.

### **What is your favorite thing about teaching PHI 191H?**

Teaching Honors Program students who can keep up with Maimonides is hard, but I know they can handle it.

### **What are some philosophical concepts or ideas present in your daily life?**

It's not about a certain application of ideas but the certain orientation of life. Education is not about filling up a vase, it's about turning the eye from objects that are less bright to ones that are brighter. Book 7 of The Republic by Plato shows just that.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

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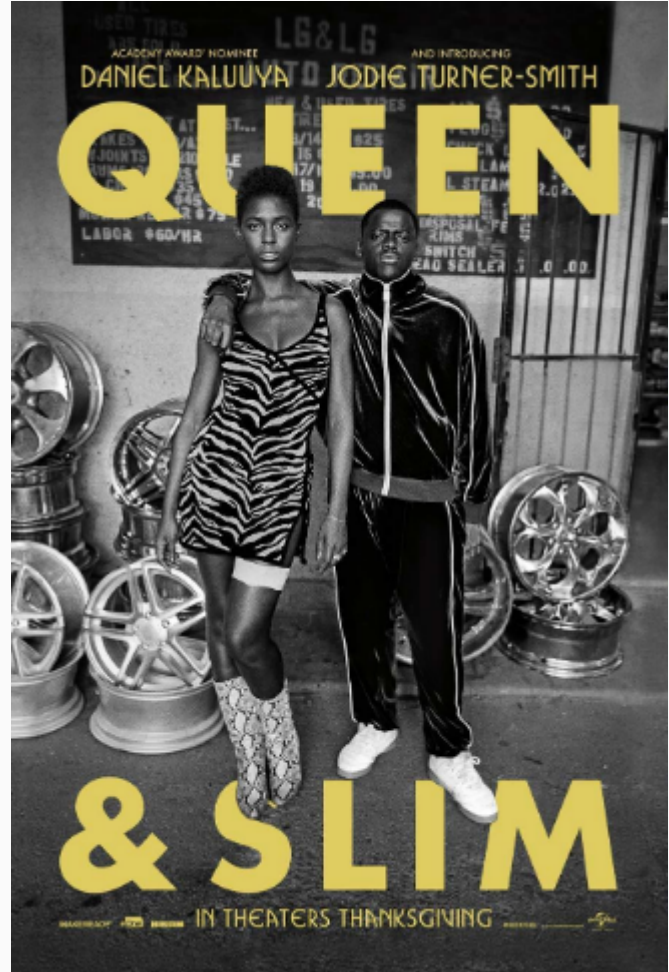
Illuminate (Theatre Department Show)	Feb 20-23
Mardi Gras	Feb 25
Leap Day	Feb 29
Spring Break	Mar 2-6
International Women's Day	Mar 8
Daylight Saving Time	Mar 8
Holi	Mar 9-10
Saint Patrick's Day	Mar 17
Spring Equinox	Mar 19
Guest Lecture Series	March 24 (tentative)
HP Game Night	Apr 1
Passover	Apr 8
Easter Holiday	Apr 9-10



# Movie Review - Queen and Slim

By Johania Charles

"Queen and Slim" is a romantic crime drama written by Malina Matsoukas. This film delves into the lives of two African American characters looking to find meaning in their lives. Viewers are introduced to a young criminal defense attorney who agrees to go on a date with a guy she met on Tinder. The storyline captures the true essence of romance and race by taking the audience on an emotional roller coaster following the first date gone wrong narrative. Queen and Slim is not simply a love story but also address the important issue of racial injustice in the age of police brutality and the black lives matter movement. The film forces people to understand the fear African Americans experience during traffic stops they encounter with white policeman who may or may not be racist. For Bonnie and Clyde fans, this film may be exactly what you're looking for. Overall, it is a powerful movie about identity and purpose in a rigid system of oppression. It's a tale of how African-American communities can either be united by shared struggles or divided because of what may be at stake if they don't conform to society.



Student Life is doing a screening of Queen and Slim on February 19th.

# In the spirit of love, we in HPSAB thought it only fitting to dedicate a section of the newsletter to two Honors Program members who were recently engaged!

## Stefan Jugmohan

### What's the name of your fiancé?

Madeline Pagan

### How did you meet?

Fortunately, we met at Barry University. The moment I first saw her, I literally said to myself: "I am going to marry her." It was then that determination and perseverance became my best friends. We always said hi [and] bye to each other but nothing more. We both live in Dominican Hall. Then one day I realized she lived in the dorm next to mine, to make it better we figured out my bed was next to her bed with a wall separating us. Ever since then, that became the connection because it made us think it was definitely meant to be. We share a lot of

the same qualities such as ambition, morals, values, being god-fearing, and the goal of being successful while maintaining and improving humility. Immediately, I just "knew." I don't think my brain processed it. I just think God and the Universe made it happen and I proposed.



### When did you get engaged?

Our engagement was the 30th [of] January 2020. It happened outside of West Miami with all our friends.

### When will your wedding be?

We're aiming to celebrate our marriage early next year.

### Quote About Madeline, From You

The best pair in the world is [her] smile and presence and now we are a pair of soulmates in this world. My favorite fairy tale is living our love story. #themiamifairytale.



## Dainely Fabregas

### What's the name of your fiancé?

Rashed Alyammahi

### How did you meet?

We had the same class and he asked if I could help him with a photography project, so I was his model. We started talking and getting to know each other and on our first date we were already talking about marriage.

### When did you get engaged?

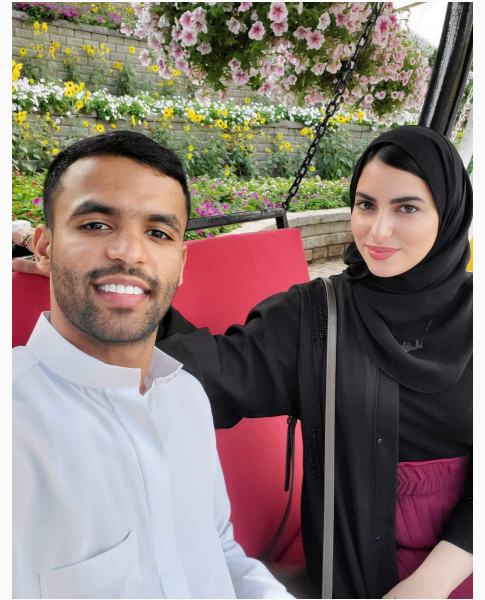
I went to the United Arab Emirates to meet his entire family, and on January 13th he took me to the desert and proposed. It was beautiful, romantic, and private. It was just the two of us surrounded by dunes as the Arabian day turned into night.

### When will your wedding be?

We don't have a date set yet, but we plan to have a multicultural wedding that blends Emirati and Cuban culture.

### Quote About Rashed, From You

What I love about him is his heart. He's the most kindhearted, thoughtful, and generous person that I had the privilege of falling in love with. He inspires me to be courageous and through his eyes my intelligence is a force to be reckoned with.



# Word to the Wise

"Gravity is not responsible for people falling in love."

— Albert Einstein (submitted by Nicole Rafols)

"There is no love that is not first founded on loving yourself."

— Walter MacWaters



"You don't need someone to complete you, you just need someone to accept you completely."

— Unknown (submitted by Johannia Charles)

"To love or have loved, that is enough. Ask nothing further. There is no other pearl to be found in the dark folds of life."

— Victor Hugo (submitted by Emma James)

"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."

— A Midsummer Night's Dream (Act 1, Scene 1)

"Don't stop believing. Hold on to that feeling."

— Journey (submitted by Michi Ceard)

"Who, being loved, is poor?"

— Oscar Wilde (submitted by Emma James)

"I fell in love the way you fall asleep: slowly, and then all at once."

— John Green, *The Fault In Our Stars* (submitted by Brianna Lopez)

To love is to be selfless, smile, understand each other, speak kindly towards one another, help those in need, give, and have inner peace.

— Dr. Sirimangkala



# HP Requirements

- Enrollment in Barry as a full-time Undergraduate  
(12 credits per semester minimum)
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- Take one Honors Program course each semester
- Attendance of a minimum of two Honors Program events per semester

## Junior and Senior Thesis Requirements:

- Enrollment in HON-479H
- Attendance of Thesis Orientation
- Defense of Thesis one month prior to Commencement

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