

**SPEAK UP:
USE YOUR
VOICE!**

MARCH 2021

HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

HPSAB Newsletter

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GREETINGS

From Your Co-Editors

Hi all, while reading this issue I would like you to remember a time when you felt silenced. When you felt like no one was listening to what you had to say. This issue will highlight the Fair Food Program and how the Immokalee workers used their voice to speak up about injustices on the farms. It can be extremely discouraging to feel silenced and feel as if your voice does not matter. This theme is very near to my heart as a new member of not only HPSAB, but the Honors Program itself. As a sophomore at Barry, I joined HPSAB to make sure my voice is heard as a co-editor of this newsletter and I encourage you all reading to do the same. Speak out on issues that you feel are important to talk about; issues that you feel have been detrimental to our society. As students at Barry University, we are familiar with the duty we have to uphold as part of the university's core commitments, particularly the core commitment on inclusivity. Remember that if people like Dr. Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez had not used their voice, a lot of us would still be silenced today. So, I encourage you all to "Use Your Voice"; continue to change the world and I will do the same.

-Mia Tubbs

To learn is an optional necessity, but to understand is truly a gift. I have come to the conclusion that if I choose to be enlightened by nature around me, I will find myself bathing in a tub of treasures. It does not matter how many times I fail at attempting to understand; but it is the effort that I consciously put forth from the beginning. We must allow ourselves to use our voice to produce sincere conversations. I joined the HPSAB because I was looking for ways to get more involved within the honors program. Aside from academic excellence, I wanted to showcase that we are not only brains but there is a large quantity of character and talent within each member. Personally, I love to write! If I am not reading a book, I am writing one. My passion for knowledge is why I decided to become a Co-Editor for the Honors Program Newsletter. I hope that in using the Honors platform, I will be able to share some of my personal gems with the readers. In these times, there is so much more to provide to the world, and I refuse to let obscurity reside within the pages of our future. While oppositions may come, they create opportunities. Ask yourself: what can I do for someone else today? Remember to be true to who you are and what you love. Those who support you will follow. We have a voice and I hope that we will be able to use it to serve the world at large. Even if it is one small word at a time.

-Shanieya Harris

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SHANIEYA HARRIS**

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MEET THE HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD (HPSAB)



MS. BRIANNA LOPEZ

Position: Co-Chair
Major: English



MR. WALTER MACWATERS

Position: Co-Chair
Double Major:
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Position: Secretary
Major: Social Work



MS. SHANIEYA HARRIS

Position: Co-Editor, Honors Program
Newsletter
Major: Spanish (Spanish Language
and Literature)



MS. MIA TUBBS

Position: Co-Editor, Honors Program
Newsletter
Major: Spanish (Spanish Language
and Literature)



MS. IZABELLA RUIZ

Position: Writer and Researcher
Major: Pre-Nursing



MS. ANNA GALAKTIONOV

Position: Writer and Researcher
Major: Music

Honors Program Fall 2020 | Guest Lecture Series

Wednesday, December 2 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm



Kristen Broady, Ph.D.
Policy Director of The Hamilton Project
Fellow of Economic Studies
The Brookings Institution



Amesh Adalja, M.D.
Senior Scholar
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security



Paula Tkac, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and
Associate Research Director
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

GLS RECAP

WRITTEN BY ANAYA RUIZ

This article is about the Guest Lecture Series (GLS) that occurred last semester on December 2nd. The GLS that took place had three guests from three different backgrounds and careers but they were connected, like all of us, by the Coronavirus Pandemic. First, I will introduce these esteemed guest lecturers. The first guest lecturer was **Dr. Kristen Broady**. Dr. Broady is a fellow of economic studies at the Brookings Institution, as well as the policy director of an economic policy initiative called the Hamilton Project. She previously served as a consultant for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC, the Center for Global Policy Solutions, and as the IIBCU

consultant for season 2 of The Quad on BET. Dr. Broady earned a B.A. in criminal justice at Alcorn University and MBA/ PHD in business administration at Jackson State University. Dr. Broady research covers a mortgage foreclosure risk labor and automation and racial health disparities. The next guest lecturer was **Dr. Amesh Adalja**. Dr. Adalja is a senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. His work is mainly focused on emerging infectious disease pandemic preparedness and biosecurity. Dr. Adalja has served on a number of advisory panels, both for private organizations like the NCAA, and also for government institutions like the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The last guest lecturer was **Dr. Paula Tkac**. Dr. Tkac is the Senior Vice President and associate research director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. She earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate in Economics. Dr. Tkac leads financial markets and research economics teams, serves as a policy advisor, and provides strategic direction for the research division through academic and practitioner groups. She has appeared on things like C-SPAN and as an op-ed writer in the Wall Street Journal.

GUEST LECTURE SERIES CONTINUED

This GLS was centered around COVID-19. Each person had different insight into how the pandemic has affected the world. Dr. Amesh provided insight on the truth about the pandemic. In media we often hear conflicting theories and ideas on who it impacts, how it impacts them, and the severity of the virus. Dr. Amesh summarized these key points and the precautions people should take in order to prevent and decrease the spread of COVID-19. He also spoke about something everyone has had conflicting opinions on today – the vaccine.

Dr. Broady provided a unique insight on essential workers and racial disparities seen during the pandemic. She spoke about the automation of jobs and how some people do not have that privilege to have an automated job and the people who do not have that are more so people of color which is why the pandemic distortionally affects those communities.

Dr. Tkac provided a different insight on how the pandemic was affecting us economically. The economic world was drastically impacted by the presence of COVID-19. Many small businesses and people not spending money has hurt our economy. Dr. Tkac explained why this was the case and what we should do as consumers to help rebuild our economy.

Although these three have different careers they were all drastically impacted by the pandemic. They explained how it changed their lives professionally and what they want to contribute to our society in order to better it. This GLS was very insightful and dealt with many of the questions we asked ourselves during this pandemic. It was great to see these professionals honestly and forwardly tell us the information we have been so desperately longing for. It was very motivational and inspiring. Thank you to the panelists and to our honors program team who made this GLS relatable as well as informational. Last but not least, a special thank you goes out to our program director – Dr. Sirimangkala.

Faculty Spotlight

DR. BRADLY BOWERS, HP FACULTY MEMBER



1. How long have you been serving as HP faculty? What are some things you've learned while serving?

I have been teaching in the Honors Program since before any of you in the program now were born. I have learned that while each year's class is different individually and collectively, HP students have distinct characteristics such as self-motivation, responsibility, and courage.

2. How have you spoken up and used your voice while at Barry University?

While I am not one who usually participates in protests or demonstrations, I have always said what I think, both personally and professionally, especially when I saw or heard hypocrisy. As you may imagine, sometimes it creates conflict and repercussions, but that's the price of a clean conscience.

3. What advice do you have for the students (people of the future) who are afraid to use their voice?

If you are motivated to speak or write by your carefully considered and well-informed beliefs, you will only regret what you do not say. There has been only one time in my entire career as a professor that in the face of blatant hypocrisy I chose to remain silent in a public forum, and I can say that I regret it to this day.

4. Have you seen a difference in the way leadership is presented during this pandemic? If yes, what would you consider to be the benefits?

I have to say that I have been impressed with our University President Dr. Mike Allen during this pandemic for being so transparent and honest. It was reassuring that he communicated with the Barry community frequently and that he was willing to admit that he didn't have all the answers, that he and the University leadership were doing their best in a tough situation, just like the rest of us. Politically, I haven't seen true leadership on any level for a long, long time, and that hasn't changed with the pandemic. One of my favorite philosophers, Benjamin Franklin, wrote in 1731 "that few in public affairs act from a mere view of the good of their country, whatever they may pretend" and "that fewer still, in public affairs, act with a view to the good of mankind."

5. What would you like to see come from the students on campus within the honors program? It could be passive or interactive contributions inside and outside of the classroom.

I see many HP students who realize that they are already beginning their professional careers. I encourage my students to take the initiative to act, to assert (respectfully) some control over their education, not just react or respond. Remember that we are mentoring you so that you can replace those currently in the professional world, hopefully better, brighter, and more conscientious.

6. Lastly, is there anything important that you would like to add for your feature in the Newsletter? It is a privilege to be part of the Honors Program. I have learned so much and enjoyed the company of so many interesting and intelligent people, sitting on our trees together in the classroom. It gives me hope that the sun will indeed rise tomorrow--even though it won't.



Alumni Spotlight

with Johania Charles

by: Mia Tubbs

1. What drew you to Barry University? What did you study? What year did you graduate?

I would say the fact that it's a small institution and me as a student I wanted that hands on experience with teachers and go to them for support whenever I felt like I did not understand something. I feel like a bigger institution you won't really receive that. I studied English literature and graduated in May 2020.

2. As Barry students we all know, Barry has four core commitments, two of them being inclusive community and social justice. How do you think Barry upholds those commitments?


I feel like Barry is a school that really emphasizes on everyone feeling welcomed, such as having international students and transfer students. They really do a good job taking everyone in and making them feel welcomed. Giving them a safe space and making them feel like they will do well in the environment. For me personally, I was involved with CCSI as a fellow and I saw service learning first hand. One thing that they emphasized was that it is one thing to do service and say "Oh I am going to help my church for the weekend." but with CCSI, their goal was to make sure that while you're doing community service, making sure it is impactful to the area you are serving.

3. Can you tell me about a time that you felt like you "used your voice" to positively impact or change your circumstances?

Last election cycle, I worked on a voting campaign and I made sure that I let people know the importance of voting and not only that but removing barriers. With that job, I had to share my personal experiences with voting and growing up in a Haitian household and my family were immigrants and they were not officially citizens. I had to in a way voice the concerns of my family. For me, I knew it was important to tell people to vote for the people in their community. For example, I believe the Trump Administration was talking about removing temporary protected status for Haitians and many were worried they would have to return to Haiti. With kidnappings and other things going on there that would be a fearful situation for them. So for me, it was important to advocate for TPS and in that sense I used my voice to support my community and family.

4. If you had decided to be silent and not use your voice during that time what do you think would have happened?

I feel like if I kept that perspective that, you know, voting doesn't really matter. Then I wouldn't have encouraged people in the community to go out and vote. Especially young people in the community. I don't think that necessarily would have happened if I myself didn't believe that it was a powerful tool that I had then I wouldn't have gone out and empowered other people to vote or even just volunteering with different nonprofits. Nonprofits really need people to volunteer and if they do not have those numbers then a lot can not get done.



5. Who stands out to you and is the first person that comes to mind when you think of a person who used their voice to change their circumstances?

I would say Stacey Abrams. Specifically because just seeing the amount of impact she has had on voting rights and seeing how there's a lot of different bills being proposed right now at this moment that would infringe on people's voting rights just taking out drop boxes where people spend most of the day at work may not necessarily have the option of going to unfold let's say on Election Day because they have to be at work. She is doing a lot for black voters as well.

6. It can be sometimes intimidating to speak out against what the norm is. What would you say to students who are afraid to use their voice to encourage them to do so?

I think speaking out can look like a lot of different things. It doesn't have to necessarily be, you know, standing in front of a crowd and telling people how you feel. I view using my voice also as writing for example, since you know, that was my major and that's something that I'm passionate about. I think voicing your opinions can also be done through writing. So maybe through storytelling, writing articles or maybe even writing stories because we've seen that a lot of different black authors use their platform as writers to address different issues going on in the community like Toni Morrison. She really spoke about a lot of different things related to colorism related to racism and justice. It is not always using your physical voice.

7. With this past month drawing attention to the BlackLivesMatter protests, LGBTQ+, and immigrants rights what issue would you like to speak out about, that you feel like needs to have attention drawn to it?

Some issues that I personally am really passionate about are immigrant rights and also just seeing the height of the black lives matter movement and the amount of backlash that people received from the movement. Even just recently, there was a politician who was saying, with the whole Insurrection that happened on the six (of January). He was saying that he wasn't afraid of hearing that there was a mob of white people outside and he said that if it was black lives matter protesters or people in the movement who were outside he would have been afraid for his life. So, it is really important to me to talk about the injustices of black and brown communities.

8. How do you think you can go about impacting that change?

What I've been doing is covering different stories, like I was saying the murals that are being done in the Broward area. Just covering those stories and getting the word out. Whether that is about police brutality or gun violence in Miami. For example, I was able to have a conversation with Miami-Dade mayor Daniella Levine Cava, and talk to her about what she can do to implement policies seeing how this community is still suffering and from. She was suggesting, making sure that these people actually have jobs because sometimes people turn to a life of crime because they don't have opportunities. So making sure that there are more opportunities for these people.

**"It is not
always
using
your
physical
voice"**

-Johania Charles

9. How are you using your voice now?

So what I've been doing is just sort of covering different stories because I work at a news outlet right now and just using two using my ability to write to share stories to make sure that people know about different different stories different things going on in the community like different issues that may have that may go unheard because you know small communities often don't get the support that they need. So making sure that gets done is how I am impacting that change.

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN COVID-19: NEW ORLEANS

by Anaya Ruiz

Throughout American history there has been a health disparity between people of color and their white counterparts. This has been exemplified by many aspects of everyday medical treatments and outcomes. Today this disparity is highlighted with the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). People of color not only have the highest case numbers and deaths, but also are given less than subpar treatment when diagnosed with the illness. This is due to many factors, such as their socioeconomic status, being an essential worker, and the inherent biases towards people of color. Although there is a national discrepancy, this article is going to focus on my home city New Orleans, LA. The population in New Orleans is 60% black and 35% percent white, but the number of COVID-19 deaths, as of June 5th, was 77% black and less than 20% white. Long-term care facilities (LTC) are places like nursing homes and places with assisted living facilities which experience a higher rate of infection than small resident populations. When you factor out the cases in LTC deaths, the racial disparity is greater. Black New Orleanians account for almost 88% of all non-LTC deaths, while white New Orleanians are lower than 9% (Weinstein & Plyer, 2020).

Why is this the case? Like the rest of the country, most of New Orleans' frontline workers (essential workers) – sanitation workers, meat packaging workers, grocery store clerks, garbage workers, nurses, cleaners, warehouse workers, and bus drivers, etc. – are black Americans. For example, in essential retail 56% are people of color, in transportation and trade 50% and health care and social assistance 49% in New Orleans (Weinstein & Plyer, 2020). Another reason is because black New Orleanians are more likely to live in multi-generational homes. In 2018 Orleans Parish had seven times more multi-generational black homes than whites (Weinstein & Plyer, 2020). This is a problem if there are higher risk people in these homes. People who live with people who are high risk should act as if they are at high risk and should stay at home and socially distance; but if there are essential workers who live in these homes, they have to go out into the public in order to pay for their rent and food. New Orleans has a higher rate of infection and deaths over many cities, but most of the harm has affected Black New Orleanians.

Now that the vaccines are on their way, New Orleans officials have developed a plan in order to target higher risk individuals. New Orleans has a multi-stage vaccine plan. The first people who are receiving the vaccine are healthcare workers and nursing home residents and workers; next will be essential workers and people over 75 years old, after that, are essential workers, people over the age of 65, and people with existing medical conditions; lastly the general public. Prioritizing essential workers will lower this problem but will not solve it ([Ready.nola.gov](https://ready.nola.gov)). There is institutional racism within the medical community that needs to be addressed.

The first step of solving this problem is identifying it and learning why this problem exists. A lot of people hear about the numbers and are aware that minority populations are affected at a higherrate, but they do not know why this is the case. They do not understand that this problem goes deeper into American history and is not just a problem today. Once people are aware of the problem and its history, it is important to change the system by training healthcare workers how diseases or illnesses affect people of color (e.g., sometimes same diseases diagnosed in people of color have different symptoms than white people). Vaccines and treatments need to be tested on people of color and not just on white males. Part of a doctor's oath is to heal and protect, and this should be regardless of race, gender, or identity. According to the Census population's projections, the United States is becoming more diverse and the white population will soon be the minority, therefore, it is important to start now to reshape the collective thought of the people of colors' views on healthcare and doctors' perceptions of the treatment of people of color.

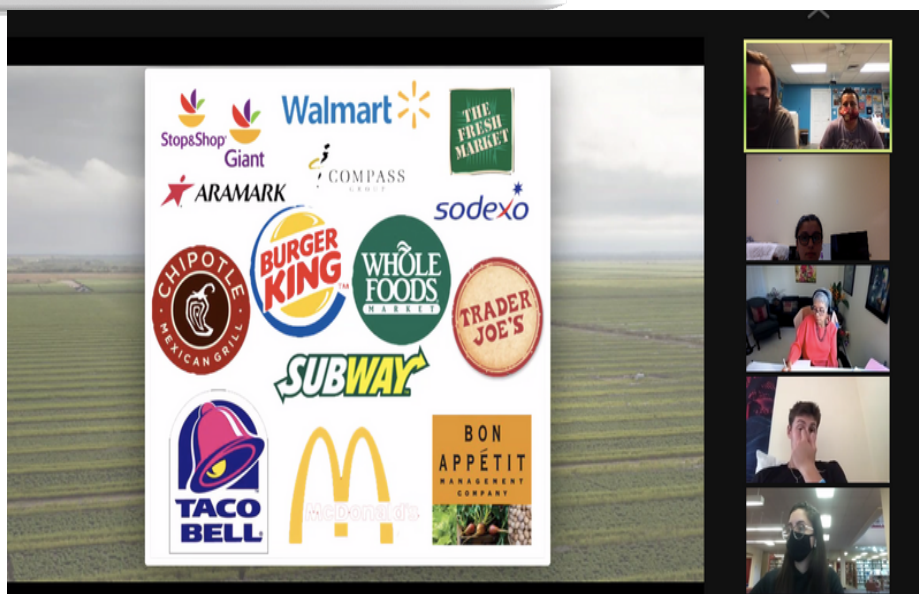
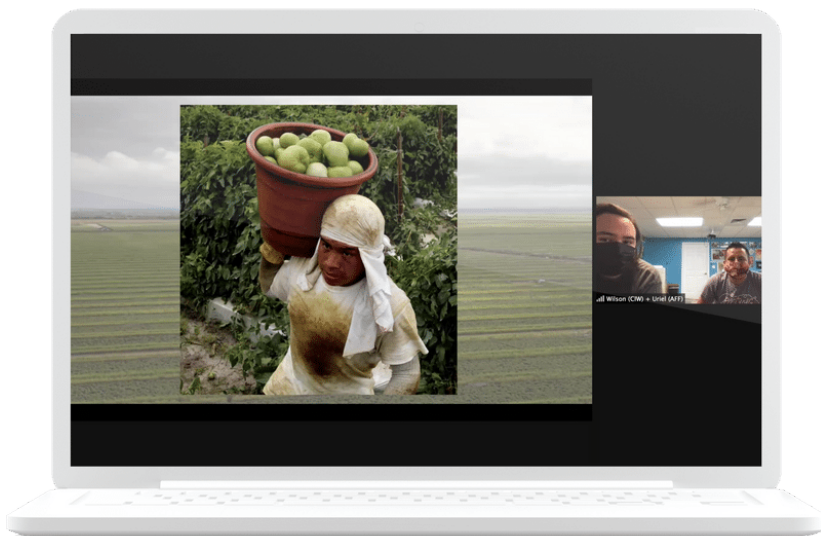


SCHOLARSHIP ENGAGEMENT - COALITION OF IMMOKALEE FARMWORKERS

Have you ever wondered where your food comes from? Most people do not. We go to the market or restaurant, buy our food, and leave. There are thousands of farmworkers to thank for the food we eat. Unfortunately, the people who are the backbones of our communities and give our bodies nourishment, are treated horribly. From the wages they receive to the inhumane treatment, these workers experience it all. While also being unable to advocate for themselves because of language

barriers and being foreigners, these workers never really had the upper hand. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), in partnership with the Fair Food Program, was able to give these workers voices. In the film "Food Chains" that the Honors Program students watched, we were able to witness these indiscretions these people experience on a daily. Sadly, these people wage theft and sexual assault in a place that they have to be everyday. A place that determines if their family will have something to eat or not.

With the Fair Food Program, these workers were able to double their wages with the help of corporations like McDonald's and Walmart agreeing to pay a penny more per pound for the tomatoes the CIW members pick. The workers also have ways to report issues in the work place and women no longer have to suffer in silence. At this year's Guest Lecture Series, we heard from Mr. Wilson, a farm worker and Uriel Zelaya-Perez, member of Alliance for Fair Food. In this conversation, HP students were shown just how much the CIW has accomplished. While there is still more to do (particularly the Wendy's boycott campaign that CIW has spearheaded, the CIW has successfully given the workers a voice.



WORDS OF WISDOM

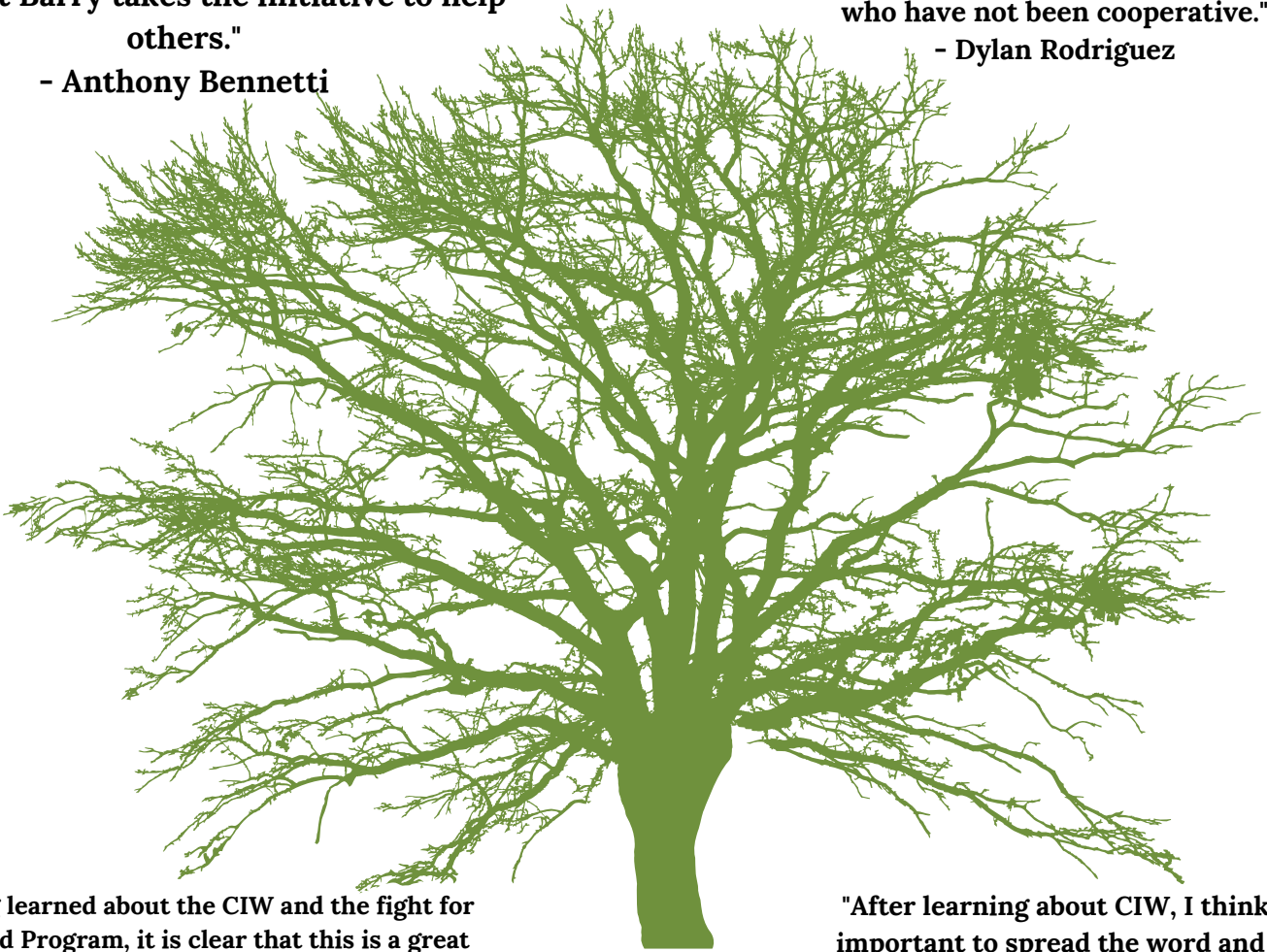
by Humanities 199H Students

"I feel that it is extremely important for more people to become more educated about CIW and related topics in order for a more meaningful change to take place. I think it is great that Barry takes the initiative to help others."

- Anthony Bennetti

"I believe that the support from Barry can strengthen CIW's voice since Barry is an institution that is willing to contribute beyond South Florida. One person can strike a difference and if we contribute as a whole, hopefully it'll positively influence markets or stores who have not been cooperative."

- Dylan Rodriguez



"Now having learned about the CIW and the fight for the Fair Food Program, it is clear that this is a great cause for us Barry students to get involved in as a way to embody Barry's core commitments on social justice and collaborative service!"

- Cassandra Lee

"After learning about CIW, I think it is really important to spread the word and help these workers achieve fair pay and treatment."

-Matthew Faby

"The fair food program shows us there are still many flaws that exist within the United States. It is absurd that people, regardless of their status, are being underpaid, overworked, and abused by their employers."

- Moe Mavins

CREATIVE SUBMISSION - ENG 358H IMMITATIVE


A Bottle in the Ocean

By Izabella Ruiz

We took a trip to the beach in the summer of 2019. Maybe during late July or early August before the global pandemic took over everyone's lives. Many city dwellers must have gone mad from being stuck in small apartments with windows facing other buildings and from not receiving any natural sun light all day. I am truly grateful we took that trip to the beach that summer before being stuck between the four walls of my room slowly closing in on my thoughts.

I remember how the sun's rays bounced off the calm water and the soft waves passed over our toes as the salty sea breeze hit our blushed cheeks. I saw a bottle bobbing up and down to the current of the ocean. The reflection of the cap caught my eye as I was looking towards the horizon. It was perhaps noon or an hour past noon when I saw it. I thought it was something living rather than something humans created, but now when you see something in the ocean you can only assume it is not alive. The manmade, nature killing item that the majority of people use in their daily lives is plastic.

We truly cannot escape it even if we tried with all our might due to its reoccurrence in all our fields of life. Our shampoo is in a plastic bottle. Our salad is prepackaged in a plastic box. The ink in our pens is encased in a thin plastic tube. It pollutes our oceans the way negative thoughts infect children's minds affecting them for the rest of their lives, unable to grow to their fullest potential. There is more plastic in the ocean than there are fish! We dispose of everything in the ocean fantasizing about where its final resting place will be on the ocean floor. I could not tell if the bottle was glass or plastic as it seemed meters away, but of course, I assumed it was plastic. Could the bottle contain a secret? A message from the past? Maybe a young girl sending a message to her father who was lost at sea. Maybe a young man's message is sealed in the bottle for his lover who is an ocean away. Or maybe it was empty and patiently waiting for a message to be placed inside. Who would place that message? No one writes messages anymore. Or at least not on paper. They have become lazy with the instant gratification given to them by technology. You send a text message, and the other person receives it instantly. When I went away to college, I began writing letters to the people I cared for, but no one wrote me back. They would only send me a photo of the letter to say thank you and move on with their day. We have changed so much over the centuries and I think we will continue to change even if we cannot see it. Just for a moment, I looked down at the waves as they hit the sand, and once I looked up again towards the horizon, I lost sight of the bottle. "Hey, did you see that bottle in the ocean?" I asked. "What bottle? I didn't see anything except for the plane with the banner in the sky."



In Dr. Bowers' ENG 358H class, students were tasked with writing an imitative paper, that mimics the styles of great writers such as Toni Morrison and Franz Kafka. This imitative paper by one of the students, Izabella Ruiz, channels Woolf, an English writer in the 20th century. Woolf played an important role in modernist literature and was influenced by women's rights. Virginia Woolf is known for her lengthy sentences, attention to detail, and for stopping mid sentence to involve readers in her inner monologue about what is going on around her. Can you spot the nods to Woolf's work?