

NOVEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 2

# HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Remote Reality Edition

## GREETINGS

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by **Izabella Ruiz & Emma James**

With the holidays just around the corner, there are many things to be grateful for and to recognize in our lives. Being a sophomore in college in this time of crisis has been a roller coaster and having access to simple things such as housing on campus and online classes is something to be very thankful for. The stable things we have in life are something we should always be happy to have, even if they are not what we would have wanted. Something that is not always stable in life is our health; and especially during this pandemic, we realize this fact more and more.

Being a pre-nursing student has allowed me to open my eyes to the various amenities in life that not everyone has access to. For instance, equal health care. Not everyone has the best health insurance or enough financial stability to afford proper health care. Understanding what we have access to—even as Barry University students such as the health insurance provided by the school—is very important. As time passes, our crisis will continue on its path; and it is up to you to maintain a positive mindset and to be grateful for what you have even if it is not ideal; understand that there is always someone who is wishing to have what you have. Happy Holidays and remember to take a look at what you have and be thankful for it.

- **Izabella Ruiz, HPSAB Secretary**

The last 8 months have been uncertain in many ways for many reasons (all of which I'm sure our readers are all too familiar with), and due mainly to poor timing I've personally had to deal with the stress of transferring schools on top of everything going on in the world right now. As the semester and calendar year draw to a close, I can't help but wonder what the future will hold for me—or any of us for that matter—and as I prepare to leave, I often find myself reflecting on my time here at Barry, which has made me realize just how much I have to be thankful for. I'm thankful for the technology that has allowed us to maintain a sense of community despite not being able to see each other in person. I'm thankful for the doctors, nurses, scientists, and essential workers who have persisted tirelessly in order to keep us all safe and attended to, I'm thankful for the support of my family and friends during this and every other transitional period I've annoyed them with complaints about, and I'm so very thankful for everyone I've met and worked with at Barry University. I have cherished my time at Barry and the memories I've made will stay with me for the rest of my life. Despite (and partly due to) all the changes society as we know it has undergone in recent months, the difficulties we've had to work through to keep things rolling, and all our individual problems and obstacles, this time in quarantine has been meaningful and memorable. I know that once this is all over, we will be stronger and more connected than ever, and I plan on staying in touch with my friends here at Barry no matter where life takes me. As the world trudges on, so will I.

- **Emma James, HPSAB Consultant**

# THE ART OF PEER REVIEWING PAPERS

By: Brianna Lopez

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Hi everyone! My name is Brianna Lopez and I am one of HPSAB's co-chairs, as well as a co-editor for the Honors Program newsletter. In the spirit of those responsibilities, I wanted to share with the Honors Program community a little bit about my experience working with The National Collegiate Honors Council Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA). I was given the opportunity to be a part of URCA as an Associate Editor of the journal last spring. So far this experience has been very enlightening and rewarding.

My basic responsibilities include reading academic and creative works submitted by honors program students throughout the country and then scoring them based on different rubrics. Since I am an English major with a Professional Writing specialization, I get to read and review any work that falls under the Humanities category. This includes poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction, and research papers. Submissions have ranged from one page long to thirty pages so far, and I have gotten to read so many amazing pieces about such interesting topics.

My favorite topic thus far has been a research paper I read about Inceldom, a topic I had previously never heard about. By definition, Inceldom "means being unable to get sex or a romantic partner," and people who identify with this group usually blame it on bad genes or similar reasons. The paper discussed the extremes of Inceldom—that is, white men who use their disappointing sex lives as an excuse for misogyny and sexism—as they relate to being deeply rooted in the American culture. The paper is extremely well articulated and insightful, so I hope that it gets published in the journal. It even made me research some books on the topic so I could further educate myself!

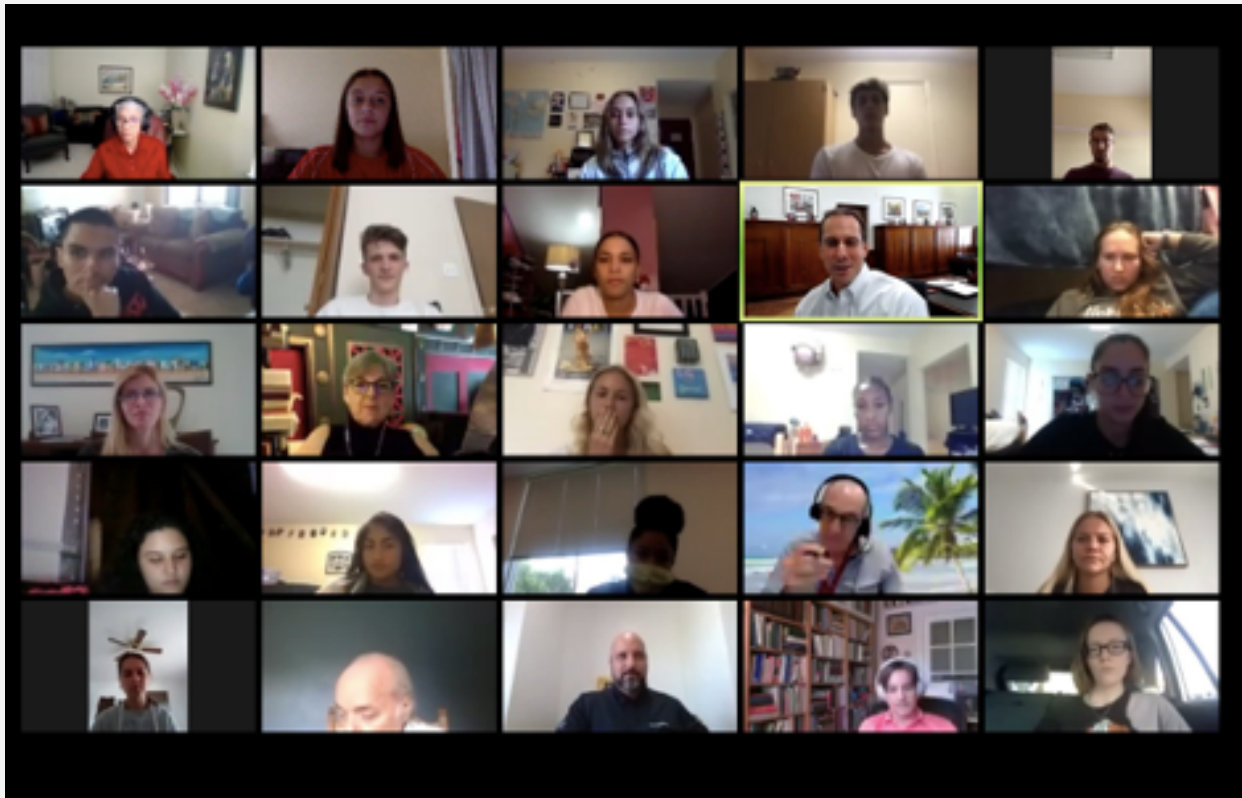
There have, of course, been many other amazing papers, but that one has really stuck with me because of the strength (and shocking nature) of its evidence. I say I hope the paper gets published in the journal because there is no guarantee that it will just due to my scoring. With URCA, every piece has multiple editors to be sure the piece is fairly scored by a variety of people.

My fellow editors have been great to work with and learn from. We began the process of reviewing submissions right at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we had a few Zoom meetings to get acquainted and do practice-reviews where we all shared our views on the same piece to get an idea of what we should be looking for when reviewing. We also used these sessions to formulate our rubrics and make sure all aspects that we believed were important to each category were represented. We created rubrics for Poetry, Prose, and Humanities (which would be focused on research papers).

Overall, working with the group of editors and the production team to review the submissions has taught me a lot, not only about editing, but about professionalism, as I have to be sure my comments are received constructively and not offensively, and about topics I probably wouldn't have otherwise learned about. This experience made me realize that I love editing and revising papers, as weird as that may sound, and I may even consider this when deciding what to do for work after I graduate.

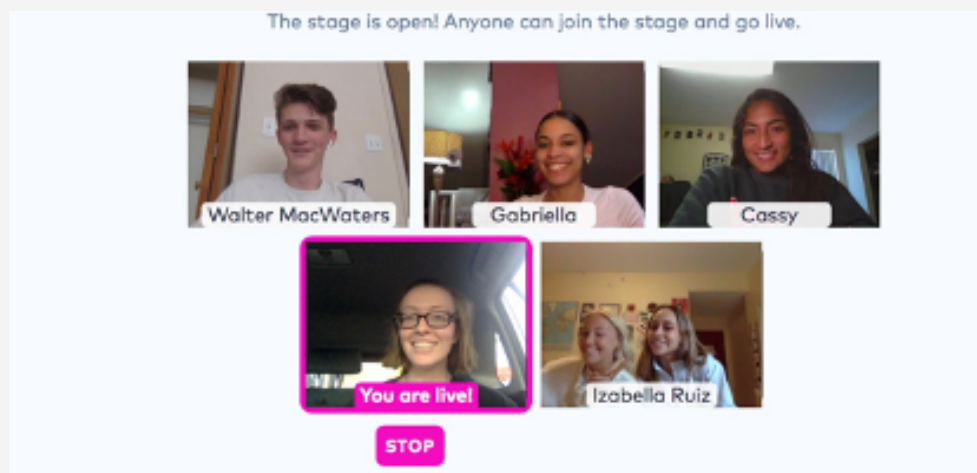
I hope you all enjoyed hearing about this experience of mine and if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free reach out to me! (See HPSAB Information Page)

# HP ORIENTATION RECAP



**Our President, Dr. Mike Allen's words of encouragement to the students.**

On September 23rd, the honors program new student orientation was held with great success. A total of 30 people attended our first virtual event. New students joined their fellow honors students, HPSAB members shared a few words of advice with the HP students, the Honors Program faculty also spoke about their courses and their roles in the program. Dr. Sirimangkala also noted on key aspects about the program (out of the total of 25 students, we welcomed 19 returning and 6 new students; all fall Honors classes are taught virtually; two seniors are graduating in December). Each HPSAB member also spoke about their plans for the rest of the semester, encouraging all students to also get involved. Other highlights include words of encouragement from an HP alumnus, Nina Escalante, the President, Dr. Mike Allen, the Provost, Dr. John Murray, the Dean, Dr. Karen Callaghan, former HP faculty and Associate Vice Provost, Dr. Victor Romano, all HP faculty in attendance. We ended the evening with the virtual greet and meet. Thank you for taking time out of your schedules to be with us. Your involvement in the program is greatly appreciated.



**Virtual greet & meet on icebreaker.video platform. People welcomed Emma as she became live.**



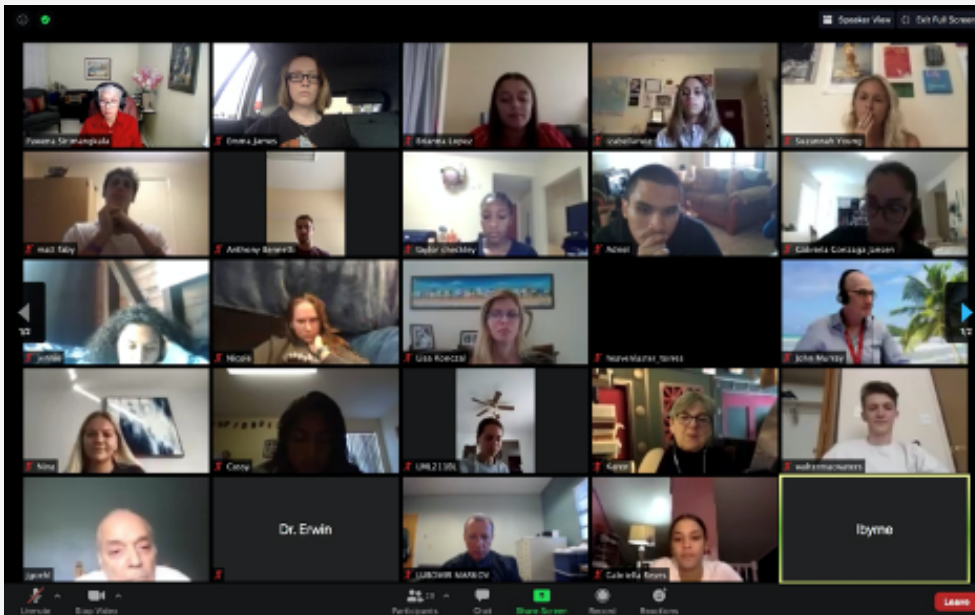
# HP ORIENTATION RECAP

A message from Dr. Byrne

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"I wanted to thank you and HPSAB for the Orientation last week. It was an impressive event both for the attendees (some heavy hitters!) and especially the student presentations. The students were all extremely articulate, poised, and professional. It is encouraging and energizing, believe me, to know we have students at this University of this caliber. It motivates us, or at least me, to be the best teachers we can be, even if it is "remotely."

”



**Adriel Solarzano, along with others, attended to Dr. Byrne's important words.**



**Anthony Bennetti, Gabriella Reyes, and Cassy Lee, along with the other HP students and guests, were noting to some relevant messages.**

# A GOOD PROVIDER IS ONE WHO LEAVES

A review by: Taylor Checkley

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In the honors course, HUM 300H, we recently finished reading a book by Jason DeParle titled, *A Good Provider is One Who Leaves*. In it, we learn about the special, but not so unique, story of Rosalie and her family as she makes the journey from the Philippines to America. In this book, Jason DeParle becomes completely absorbed in the life of a typical Filipino family to capture the hardships, sacrifices, and emotions that accompany such a great journey.

The story of Rosalie is one that may be new to us readers, but is quite common among immigrants. When Rosalie was a child, her father was a migrant worker who was rarely home. The money he made, however, supported the family and was vital for their survival. In fact, it was the best way to support the family, despite having to be separated from them. His vision of a bright future for his family is one that is shared among migrants. It is what drives them to work hard and what gives them the strength to make the sacrifices necessary to create a better life for themselves and their families. Among these sacrifices are time spent with family which ultimately may result in a broken relationship between parent and child and between partners.

Immigrants often have no choice but to leave their families behind and enter a life of extreme loneliness, stress, and often discrimination in order to create a better future. As Rosalie grew up, she worked hard to become a nurse, and the responsibility to provide for the family was passed on to her. After two decades of resiliency, her dream became a reality and she made it to the United States. Here she'd face the new challenge of having to learn how to live with her husband and kids who seemed like strangers.

Sadly, Americans, in general, have little regard for the struggles migrants and their family face during their journey. This is expressed in DeParle's response to Rosalie's mother when she asks him what Americans think of Filipinos. He replies honestly with the short phrase, "Generally, they don't." Often times, people with very little spend lots of time thinking about what it would be like to have more. We rarely take the time to put ourselves in the shoes of those who are poor and struggling to live, so we have no idea about the daily struggles to make ends meet, the overwhelming feelings of loneliness and stress, nor the type of pressure that may come with being a migrant worker. Since there is a lack of communication between the people of such different socioeconomic statuses, there exists a lack of understanding and respect for the hardships that people with less face trying to elevate themselves. This then leads to the false and misleading stereotypes that poor people are lazy, unmotivated, or looking for an easy way out.

In addition, there are stereotypes regarding immigrants as invaders and people who don't belong in this country or people who are trying to "steal" jobs from Americans. What is ironic, however, is that the typical immigrant's ambition, drive, and determination to thrive, actually makes them more "American," in the sense that, by striving to be the best they can be, they are displaying the principles of capitalism, such as hard work and perseverance. These are the same principles that this country was founded upon and proudly stands for today. After all, America is known as the land of opportunity.

This book illustrates that the reality of an immigrant's situation is quite the opposite of what is often perceived by Americans. Immigrant workers make the extremely difficult decision of leaving their home and going to a foreign place, alone, in order to support their family and country. During their journey, they face adversity head on and overcome numerous difficulties, making them the epitome of resilience and grit.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

### GABRIELA JANSEN'S OUTSTANDING RESEARCH ON BRAZIL'S REACTION TO COVID-19

Gabriella Jansen, a Senior at Barry University expecting to graduate in May 2021, presented her research for her Senior Honors Thesis at the Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF) virtual Covid-19 Undergraduate Research Symposium this past September. Her original thesis topic was an analysis of the Brazilian government's response to the regular outbreaks of arboviruses. However, with the coronavirus outbreak, she switched to evaluating how Brazil's government handled the coronavirus. She said, "The pandemic outbreak was a perfect fit for my epidemiological study."

At the symposium, Jansen discussed how the coronavirus coupled with the dengue fever, a neglected tropical disease as is defined by the World Health Organization, would cause high fatality rates in Brazil and place a significant burden on the public health system.



Since both diseases have similar symptoms, it would be difficult to give accurate diagnoses, and as a result, provide proper treatment. In her presentation, she also analyzed the cultural impact of the diseases on the Brazilian people. She believes that there is a gap between the scientific community and society in general that needs to be filled. This gap affects the way scientific evidence is communicated to the people. "I have always believed that science is not only interconnected with politics, but with also all spheres of society," Jansen said.

With these points and ideas, Jansen says that if she were to work in a health government agency, she would impose lockdowns, implement social distancing measures, expand hospital capacity, and heavily fund scientific research on COVID-19 treatments and a potential vaccine. As can be clearly seen, Jansen would be concerned with "ensuring the best overall health of [her] population."

Jansen is currently working with her advisor Dr. Ana Jimenez on her thesis research and hope to have it finalized by her thesis committee for a thesis defense in Spring 2021. We are excited for her upcoming defense and wish her the best!

*Article submitted by Anna Galaktionov, HPSAB Writer and Researcher*



# HALLOWEEN SOCIAL RECAP

The Honors Program exists not just as a body of students and scholars, but also as a community of people. In an effort to bring us all closer together in a format amenable to the remote reality, the Honors Program held a Halloween Social on October 28th. HP students and alumni alike joined together for friendly competition of trivia knowledge. Spooky, silly fun was had by all with Emma James being crowned the 2020 Halloween Kahoot Champion. It was our privilege and pleasure to welcome several HP alumni to join, and we look forward to seeing even more at future social events. Thanks also to Hemaghini Das, Dr. Victor Romano, Ignasi Forcano, and Jessica Cruz for joining us for a wonderful and relaxing afternoon. We appreciate everyone's input to help make this event possible; most importantly, we thank the alumni who took time off from their busy work schedule to join us.

Zoom Meeting



**HP members and alumni  
listen carefully as  
Aleksander prescribes  
advice to the current  
members**



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Kevin Dalia

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News:

**"After Barry, I moved to San Francisco, California where I graduated from law school [Kevin graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law in May 2020] and wrote a law article for the Environmental Law Review (it's similar to the Honors Thesis). Don't worry, this one wasn't about zombies. Since May [2020], I was working part-time as a paralegal for a small law firm and studying for the Bar exam. The Bar exam kept getting pushed back so I finally got to take it at the beginning of October. Now, I am waiting for the results and I am also waiting to receive a provisional license from the state. In the meantime, I have been working as a paralegal at the same firm and I am typically working on legal matters surrounding cannabis."**



Some background information about Kevin Dalia:

Kevin Dalia entered the Honors Program in Spring 2014 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Law from Barry University in May 2017; he wrote his Senior Honors thesis on a topic before many of us could have imagined what it would be like to be living in the middle of a pandemic. Kevin has always been ahead of our time, always thinking outside the box, and helping others in any ways that he can. His thesis title was *Zombies: The American Response to a Disease Outbreak*. Kevin also served on HPSAB (as Secretary in 2015 and as HPSAB Chair from 2016 - 2017). At the 2017 Honors Convocation, Kevin was awarded the College of Arts and Science Dean's Award in Social and Behavioral Sciences and received his Saint Catherine Medal for his outstanding leadership and service. Thanks, Kevin, for always keeping in touch!



# MEET YOUR HPSAB BUDDY LEADER

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Mr. Walter MacWaters

Position: Co-Chair and Co-Editor, Honors Program Newsletter

Major: Philosophy

E-mail: [walter.macwaters@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:walter.macwaters@mymail.barry.edu)

**Buddies: Jessica Bosch, Julian Forgues, Nicole Lentz, Taylor Checkley**



Ms. Brianna Lopez

Position: Co-Chair and Co-Editor, Honors Program Newsletter

Major: English

E-mail: [brianna.lopez@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:brianna.lopez@mymail.barry.edu)

**Buddies: Anthony Bennetti, Cassandra Lee, Muhammad Mavins, Lauren Hall**



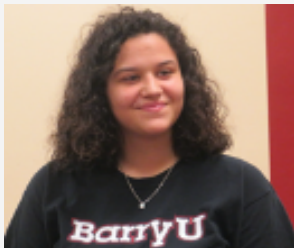
Ms. Izabella Ruiz

Position: Secretary

Major: Nursing

E-mail: [izabella.ruiz@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:izabella.ruiz@mymail.barry.edu)

**Buddies: Erica Cruz, Andres Jaramillo, Adriel Solorzano**



Ms. Jennie Iudice

Position: Scholarship Engagement Liaison

Major: Social Work

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**Buddies: Ignasi Forcano, Anaya Ruiz, Gabriela Jansen, David Rodriguez**



Ms. Emma James

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Major: English

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**Buddies: Matthew Faby, Heaven Laster-Torres, Gabriela Reyes**



Ms. Anna Galaktionov

Position: Writer and Researcher

Major: Music

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**Remember to contact your buddies via the Slack channel! (See your email from Dr. Sirimangkala for info on how to join.)**

# HP REQUIREMENTS AND HPSAB POSITIONS FOR SPRING 2021

## General HP Requirements

- Enrollment in Barry as a full-time Undergraduate student (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

## Senior Thesis Requirements

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

## HPSAB Positions for Spring 2021

In preparation for the new year, HPSAB would like to announce available positions for Spring 2021.\*

- Social Media Director
- Two Newsletter Co-editors
- Any willing students who 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.

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.

Check More Information and Updates @Slack Workspace or Direct Messages to HPSAB @Barry University Honors Program and HPSAB

**\*Those who are interested please reach out to your HPSAB buddies, any HPSAB members, or email Dr. Sirimangkala: [psirimangkala@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangkala@barry.edu)**

# WORD TO THE WISE

## Alumni Advice Edition

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”

DON'T RUSH INTO ANYTHING  
UNTIL YOU'RE SURE; AND DON'T  
BE AFRAID.

“

~ Samantha Lopes

”

THERE'S NO NORMAL BECAUSE  
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

“

~ Alekzander Sayers

”

BE WILLING TO FORGIVE  
YOURSELF.

“

~ Presler Maxius

”

DO AS MUCH AS YOU CAN TO  
EXPAND YOUR HORIZON SO YOU  
HAVE MORE TO BRING TO THE  
TABLE UPON GRADUATION.

“

~ Kevin Dalia

”

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**BARRY UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
HONORS PROGRAM**



**FALL 2020  
GUEST LECTURE SERIES**

Leadership in Time of Crisis:

The pandemic from both the public health crisis and the economic crisis

We will hear from three experts:

Dr. Amesh Adalja, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Paula Tkac, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Dr. Kristen Broady, Brookings Institution

Main topics of discussion include:

novel infectious disease pandemic, "Virus 201,"

growing divergence in the pandemic experience,

the overall facts about COVID-19 and the U.S.

economy.



**RSVP is requested by November 25 to  
[psirimangkala@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangkala@barry.edu)**

**December 2, 2020**

**4 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Virtual on Zoom:**

**[https://barry-edu.zoom.us/  
j/82443625721?](https://barry-edu.zoom.us/j/82443625721?pwd=RVFyTDU4V01sSTkrUk14OWw0Wks3QT09)**

**[pwd=RVFyTDU4V01sSTk  
rUk14OWw0Wks3QT09](https://barry-edu.zoom.us/j/82443625721?pwd=RVFyTDU4V01sSTkrUk14OWw0Wks3QT09)**

Students' Meet & Greet with the  
panelists to follow.

**COVID-19**

