



Volume 5 | Issue 1  
March 2016

# BARRY UNIVERSITY

## HONORS PROGRAM

## NEWSLETTER

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Read the newsletter online at:

<https://www.barry.edu/honors-program/newsletter.html>

### Welcome!

Welcome to the month of luck, leprechauns, and rainbows. We here at HPSAB would like to use this issue of the Honors Program Newsletter to remind us both how lucky we are and how far we have left to go before we find the end of the rainbow. As a sophomore and a first year HP member, my goal as a co-editor for the newsletter is to make a difference in the way we look at the world. My co-editor, Chelsey Thompson, and I aspire to report on topics that have a national reach but still affect us here at Barry for the duration of our service to the HP community.

String Theory (or the Butterfly Effect) tells us that everything is connected and I suggest that this is something we should always remember because I have always believed that without connections life would be close to meaningless. As we spend so much time wrapped up in the cocoon of academics, we tend to forget that the world beyond Barry is more than just a story in the news. The problems faced by our nation affect the type of world we live in and we cannot improve our world unless we understand what needs to be changed. So, I throw down the gauntlet (cross my fingers that you will pick it up) and challenge you to find the connection between your life and each of the articles in this issue.

As Chelsey and I continue navigating the dicey waters of editing the Honors Program Newsletter, we compel you to reach out to HPSAB (the list can be found in the Contact Us section on page 7) with questions, comments, suggestions, and anything else that comes to mind. We love to hear from the Honors Program students, faculty, and even alumni. Lastly, I hope you have a lucky month, and a very green St. Patrick's Day.

Fearr, Aurora Burkus-Matesevac

### Interesting Fact

Every year on March 17<sup>th</sup> Chicago dyes the Chicago River green in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The tradition started in 1962 using approximately 100 pounds of dye! Today only about 40 pounds are used.



<http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

## What's Happening

### This Month?

- 7-13:** Spring Break  
**22:** Dental Club Symposium (5pm)  
**23:** STEM Symposium  
**26:** HP Scholarship Engagement

### Riddle of the Month

Who makes it, has no need of it.

Who buys it, has no use for it.

**Who uses** can neither see nor feel it.

What is it?

Answer: A coffin

## Position Wanted

The Honors Committee is looking to fill a student representative position on the committee. The committee oversees all university-wide honor society applications and organizes the university's Honors Convocation. If you are available from 2 – 3 on select Mondays and are interested in increasing your student leadership experience, please contact Dr. Sirimangkala. Spring 2016 meeting dates and location: 03/14, 03/28, 04/11, 04/25, and 05/02, Landon 204.

## Pay It Forward

April 20<sup>th</sup> is Pay It Forward Day. The day emphasizes the importance of people from all over the world giving to one another and making a positive difference. Pay It Forward Day is a day to remind each of us the power of giving and how we can make the world brighter with simple acts of kindness. We would like to create a collage of inspiration for the April issue. We ask that anyone willing to contribute do so. If you have a favorite saying or quote, or maybe the most inspirational thing you were ever told, we ask that you send it to our Co-Editors. We can be reached at: [chelsey.thompson@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:chelsey.thompson@mymail.barry.edu) and [aurora.burkus-matesevaca@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:aurora.burkus-matesevaca@mymail.barry.edu)



## Don't Drown the Bunny

The nation has suddenly found itself in an uproar over an unfortunate incident at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland. The president of the university, Simon Newman, has taken it upon himself to help his students by implementing a new policy that requires the faculty to push those likely to drop out to leave early on in the semester. This is supposed to be done to help students who have difficulties adjusting to college life, but the student journalists at the school claim that Newman only cares about the university's retention rates. When faculty began to object to these heinous plans, Newman supposedly said "This is hard for you because you think of the students as cuddly bunnies, but you can't. You just have to drown the bunnies ... put a Glock to their heads." Some faculty continued to voice their objections and were fired for their efforts despite tenure and standing in the university. This atrocious act has left students and educators across the nation thoroughly disgusted and enraged. What is your opinion? Should we drown the bunny or help it grow?

Read more at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/02/09/the-controversy-at-mount-st-marys-goes-national-after-professors-are-fired/>

## Science Literacy

Science literacy is the understanding of scientific principles such as graph reading, critical thinking, and the scientific method in regards to personal decision-making and economic productivity. Science literacy is important for everyone – not just scientists. Actually, it is more important for non-scientists because the skills science literacy instills are something that scientist gain in their chosen field of study but non-scientists need



these general skills as well. These skills encourage innovation and diversity in the way we understand the universe. Unfortunately, science literacy is on the decline in the US. We have moved from the leading country in STEM and innovation to the only first world country without an emphasis on scholastics and the scientific world. There are many things that contribute to the decline of science literacy in the US, chief among them are the sociological emphasis on sports and the recently (a few years or so) implemented No Child Left Behind policy in public school systems. We need to improve science literacy by taking the focus off of standardized tests and sports and putting it back on actually educating students.

Read more at <http://www.wired.com/2015/08/scientific-literacy-really-mean/>

## Vizcaya Article

Each semester, the Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB) plans an HP excursion with one goal in mind, to encourage the HP community to take time off from the routine schedule and do something fun. HPSAB then selects an interesting place to visit, learn something new, and enjoy each other's company. On Saturday February 13, 2016, eleven HP students and three faculty members visited the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, one of U.S. National Historic Landmarks, in Coconut Grove, Florida. Upon arrival



Vizcaya, we were greeted by the staff as we signed up for a private tour of the Vizcaya Main House. We learned a great deal about the history of Vizcaya and its original owner James Deering. It was quite informative to learn about the museum and gardens. Among other things, we learned that a) the construction took place between 1914 and 1916, b) both the exterior and interior of Vizcaya and its gardens' features were influenced by the Italian and French Renaissance art, c) the role of the Bahamian servants, d) and the donation of the estate by the Deering family in 1930 and Miami-Dade County's acquisition in 1952. At the end of the tour, we were guided to a "school picnic area" where we enjoyed our own prepared lunch and great conversation among us.

It was a beautiful day to visit Vizcaya, enjoy the Biscayne Bay scenery, and spend quality time with one another. Thanks to those who helped make this special day a reality! Photos from our trip can be found on the following page. Here are some of the comments about the activity:

Dr. Byrne: It was a fun and interesting experience. I learned a good deal and the day was perfect. Thanks for all the work you put into these events. I know the students appreciate it and enjoy the time "together."

Dr. S: HPSAB organized another successful event for all to enjoy. Thank you for what you do!

Alek Sayers: It was a blast. A lot of people got to meet new faces and learn a lot on such a beautiful day.

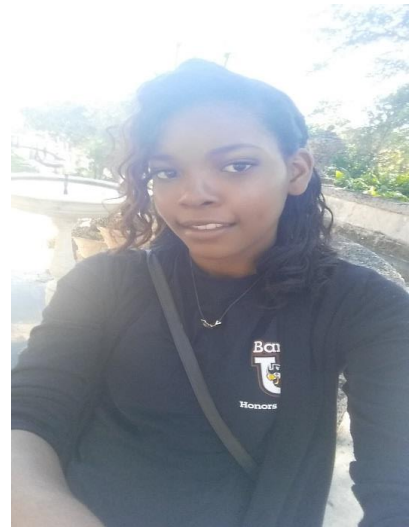
Dr. Markov: Thanks so much again for organizing the Vizcaya trip, I had a great time and I think everyone else did as well.



## Member Submissions

### My Home Away From Home – Rhasheda Weir

I am a transfer student from Suffolk County Community College, located in a small suburban town in Long Island, New York, with average winter temperatures of 20 degrees. For those whose hometowns are more north of here, they might say “oh that’s nothing,” but for an ‘Island girl,’ winter is no joke. The frostbites and chapped lips however were not all bad, for it gave me the drive to further my studies and look for schools located in warmer areas. In my search, I came across Barry University; its class sizes and reputation attracted me to apply. This is my second semester here at Barry, and although I have only been here less than a year, I can proudly say that this school is by far one of the best I have ever been introduced to. The pride and dedication displayed by both the faculty/staff and students is remarkable. Their spirit is very reminiscent of the people of my home country Jamaica. Barry is my home away from home. Being a transfer/honors student can be difficult, as you can find yourself doing numerous courses each semester to ensure you meet your graduation date, and in some cases, having to retake courses, as some were not equivalent to Barry courses. It may be challenging sometimes, but with the help of my professors and advisors, I am able to cope. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) with a major in management. I chose this field of study as I hope to one day open my own business in my home country Jamaica. There is a shortage of jobs within the country, and my goal is to help fill that gap and help boost the country's economy. Unethical leadership plagues Jamaica, and this has led me to formulate my honors thesis around leadership. My thesis examines how each generation





differs from each other with their interpretation and acceptance of a leadership style, and what is to be expected from the upcoming generation of leaders.

## Alternative Breaks Call for Assistance



As you know, I am part of Alternative Breaks; and this Spring Break, a group of Barry students will be traveling to Port-de Paix, Haiti (myself included) and New Orleans, Louisiana (Presler Maxius will travel with the New Orleans group). With each trip, we have a different focus. In Haiti, we



will examine issues of globalization and poverty, and explore possibilities and methods for long-term partnerships related to areas of health, education, social services, and other areas of development. In New Orleans, students will be working in solidarity with several community-based organizations that work in the 9th ward, the community most affected by Hurricane Katrina. We're raising funds to help cover travel, fuel, food, housing, and supplies for our weeklong trip. Please help us reach our goals through any donation amounts. We thank you in advance for your consideration and support! Here's a link. It's really fast and easy.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/alternativebreaks1/fundraiser/barryasb2016>

Thanks so much,

Paola Montenegro  
International Studies Major  
Alternative Breaks Exec. Board  
Barry Service Corps Fellow



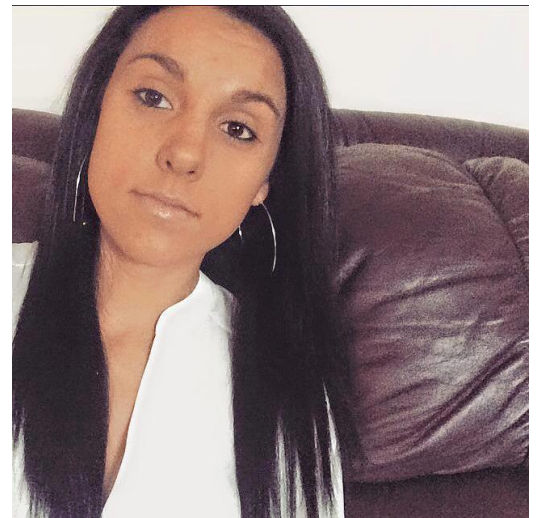
Barry students, Keiara Green, Latania Richardson, Qiwen Su, Paola Montenegro, Quayneshia Smith, Victoria Hoelscher, Tamara Vuckovich, and Mayra Martinez during the 2015 Alternative Spring Break Trip to Immokalee, FL

## Senior Salute

### Taylor Malinowski

My name is Tayler Malinowski, I am from Meriden, Connecticut and I graduated from Francis. T Maloney High school. I choose to attend Barry University because of the location and to have a small classroom environment. I will graduate in Spring 2016 as a Biology major and Chemistry minor. I then plan to attend Pharmacy school. I choose Biology as a discipline because I have a passion for healthcare and medicine. My favorite aspect of the Honors Program is the diversity of the honor's courses. I enjoy being active, playing sports, and learning new discoveries in medicine. After I graduate, I plan to attend pharmacy school and then enter into the United States Air force.

My Senior Honors Thesis research entails an extensive examination of different treatments and preventive measures used for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I intend to provide an appropriate contemporary background on how PTSD diagnosis and treatment are approached today in the medical field as well as the perspectives on the social attitudes towards the disorder. My choice of topic for this thesis is relevant to the well-being of our society because approximately 8 million cases of PTSD occur per year from a variety of traumatic sources (Department of Veteran Affairs, 2015). PTSD can be developed in any gender, ethnicity, or age. There are many PTSD cases resulting from war combat, natural disasters, sexual assault, car accidents,



homicides, injuries, murders, crimes, or robbery. Going through trauma isn't rare. Statistics show that approximately 60% of men and up to 50% of women go through trauma at some point in their lives (Department of Veteran Affairs, 2015). However, women are more likely to develop PTSD than men (Department of Veteran Affairs, 2015).

This research on PTSD will benefit a large cross section of our population because everyone is susceptible to developing this disorder; and being aware of this knowledge on PTSD will prepare anyone if they should ever encounter the development of PTSD. This research will also be beneficial to many victims who may have PTSD because they should be aware of all the treatment choices. A lot of cases are not reported because a lot of people don't know that they have PTSD. Those who do not seek treatment could potentially face bigger health problems. The treatments and preventive measures of PTSD have the right intention to heal the victim. Yet, some carry some ethical concerns. One major criticism is in regards to the memory consolidation drugs. These drugs act to eliminate the emotions that go along with a traumatic event. This would cause a decrease in the likelihood of traumatic recall. I chose this topic because it is one that is not only relative to my academic discipline but to my medical career path as well. I have a particular interest in neurological science and neurological pathology. I feel that it is vital to know how our brain operates and how it can change from environmental influences. There are so many contributing factors that affect how the brain operates, I feel that it is most necessary to explore these options for the better health of human beings. Inspiration for this topic also comes from a particular concern I have for the health of our veterans. I plan to join the armed forces after I am done with college. Therefore, I know this topic will be significant to my passion and career interest.

## Shade' Lovett

I am from Mount Laurel, New Jersey. I attended Holy Cross High School of Delran, New Jersey. My high school was a small, catholic learning institution, much similar to the environment here at Barry.

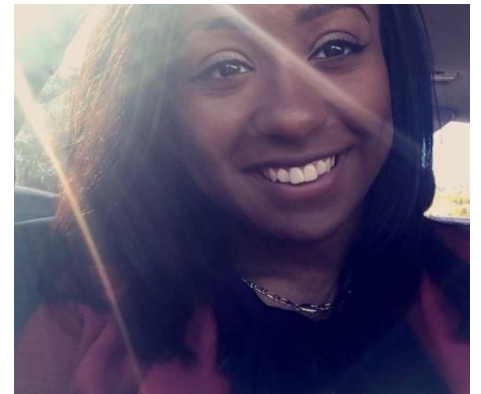
Barry is quite a bit away from home, so I had my reservations about attending. However, my older sister was attending Barry for podiatry. With the art of persuasion, she encouraged me to experience all that Barry University has to offer.

I am currently studying criminology. I was attracted to the field of criminology because I had an interest in gaining a deeper understanding of how the criminal justice system affects society as a whole. Criminology is unique in that it is concerned with crime control and sociological *solutions* to societal problems.

The Honors Program has a great sense of inclusive community. The honors students are familiar with each other because of the small class size and the multitude of engaging activities and events offered throughout each semester. Most importantly, the Honors Program is such a great program because of all the hard work and contributions put forth by Dr. S.

My thesis is titled, "Exploring the Militarization of Domestic Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering: Impact and Implications of Black Activism." I examine how black activists are affected by the increasingly militarized surveillance and intelligence gathering techniques used by local and federal law enforcement. The idea for my research topic was generated from the widespread socio-political issues occurring within the Black Lives Matter movement.

I enjoy watching movies, baking, shopping, and anything artistic—including anything from drawing to doing make-up. I am passionate about giving to others and making others happy.



My most memorable college experience would have to be when I learned that the human body could go a few nights without sleep towards the end of the semester. This made me appreciate time management, free time, and sleep more than anyone can imagine.

After graduation, I plan to join the United States Air Force. With my bachelor's degree, I will be eligible for the Officer Program. I am interested in becoming either an Officer of Intel or an Officer of Special Investigations (OSI).

## Question and Answer

We were recently asked a question regarding the mandatory events and decided to include a new Question and Answer section in the newsletter to answer student questions that pertain to the Honors Program. See the "Contact Us" section of the newsletter to email us questions or see us in person!

**Q:** What other events count as participation for the two mandatory events the HP students must attend?

**A:** Each semester, HPSAB organizes the following programs and activities:

Fall	Spring
New Student Orientation	Guest Lecture Series (GLS)
Guest Lecture Series (GLS)	Social Event/Fieldtrip
Social Event/Fieldtrip	Scholarship Engagement or Activity
	Evening of Celebration & Appreciation (ECA)

During the Fall term, the two mandatory events include the New Student Orientation and one other HP activity or programming. During the Spring term, the two mandatory events include the Scholarship Engagement and one other HP activity or programming.

**Q:** What other opportunities are there for the remainder of the semester?

**A:** For Spring 2016, the remaining opportunities are the Guest Lecture Series (Date: TBA), the Scholarship Engagement on March 26, and the Evening of Celebration and Appreciation (ECA) on April 28.

**Q:** When can I wear my Honors Program shirt?

**A:** The shirt can be worn whenever you want. The more often the better! However, the shirt must be worn for the Scholarship Engagement.

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### Honors Program Lab

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