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February 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 back and thank you for picking up our newest issue of the Honors Program Newsletter. We at HPSAB have **so** much in store for you this semester, both old and new. Firstly, we would like to welcome you back as we embark upon the Spring 2016 semester. Among the numerous events that we have in store, we also welcome two new members to the HPSAB family, myself and Aurora Burkus-Matesevac! To get to know the two of us better we will each be working on our own separate welcome letters, which will be featured in the first two issues. With February more than halfway gone and March well on its way and knocking on our door, we hope to inform you of the many things going on within the bustling Barry campus as well as the outside world.

As a recent transfer student, my hopes in accepting the position of co-editor for the newsletter were to broaden my horizon and my reach on campus. As busy college students, we often get caught up in schoolwork and focusing on our majors. Many of us tend to overlook the opportunities and connections available to us as a result of not ignorance, but rather our lack of time. I challenge you to diversify yourself and expand your reach throughout campus; get involved with something new, ask how you can help others, and seek change in your life instead of routine.

As Aurora and I begin our journey as co-editors of the newsletter, we encourage you to reach out to us and the other members of HPSAB (the list can be found in the Contact Us section on page 8) with questions, comments, and concerns about anything. We look forward to hearing from the Honors Program students and faculty, as you are the driving force and motivation behind everything that we do behind-the-scenes. Finally, I'd like to say, cheers to a new semester and a new adventure!

Best, Chelsey Thompson

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Did You Know?

February has a 29th day this year. Leap day occurs just about every four years. If a leap day occurs in a certain year, the year is considered a Leap Year. So, 2016 is a leap year. The earth makes its way around the sun roughly every 365.242190 days. So, the hope is that by adding an extra day every four years, the calendar is pretty consistent with the earth's movement around the sun. Read more at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-17203353>

Semester Calendar

| FEBRUARY | | MARCH | | APRIL | | MAY | |
|----------|--------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--|-----|----------------|
| 12 | Brides Walk | 7-13 | Spring Break | 20 | Pay It Forward Day | 2-6 | Final Exams |
| 13 | HP Excursion | 23 | STEM Symposium | | | 7 | Graduation Day |
| | | 24 | Guest Lecture Series | 28 | HP Evening of Celebration and Appreciation | | |
| | | 26 | HP Scholarship Engagement | | | | |

HPSAB Roster

| Position | Member |
|----------------------|---|
| Co-Chair | Alek Sayers Shade' Lovett |
| Secretary | Kevin Dalia |
| Student Liaison | Presler Maxius |
| Newsletter Co-Editor | Chelsey Thompson Aurora Burkus-Matasevac |
| Senior Member | Bethany Dill |
| Faculty Advisor | Pawena Sirimangkala |

*HP Event dates are subject to change.



HP Roster

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><u>Accounting</u></p> <p>Caroline Alves Da Silva Kadeem Edwards</p> | <p><u>Biology</u></p> <p>Chantel Drysdale Tayler Michell Malinowski Jasmine Serna</p> | <p><u>Chemistry</u></p> <p>Aurora Burkus-Matasevac</p> | <p><u>Clinical Biology</u></p> <p>Laura Elosegui</p> |
| <p><u>Criminology</u></p> <p>Shenea Abraham Shade' Lovett</p> | <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Tatiana Diaz Bethany Dill</p> | <p><u>Exercise Physiology</u></p> <p>Chelsea-Marie Spence Chelsey Thompsan</p> | <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>Megan Copeland Renato Lombardi</p> |
| <p><u>International Studies</u></p> <p>Paola Montenegro</p> | <p><u>Management</u></p> <p>Patrick Guevara Rhasheda Weir</p> | <p><u>Math</u></p> <p>Ricardo Gomez</p> | <p><u>Management & Marketing</u></p> <p>Karina Salinas</p> |
| <p><u>Marketing</u></p> <p>Alina Luna</p> | <p><u>Marketing & Finance</u></p> <p>Jelissa Cruz</p> | <p><u>Philosophy</u></p> <p>Jessica Cousett</p> | <p><u>Pre-professional Biology</u></p> <p>Vania Arboleda Maria Baez Alayna Gallagher Cheyanne Head Natalia Irizarry Trace McClene</p> |
| <p><u>Pre-Law</u></p> <p>Kevin Dalia Karla Govea Vincent Silvanio</p> | <p><u>Pre-Nursing</u></p> <p>Kenyanna Blaise</p> | <p><u>Psychology</u></p> <p>Theresa Brown Esther Garcia Presler Maxius</p> | <p><u>Theater</u></p> <p>Alekzander Sayers</p> |

Current Societal Issues

Listed below are some issues that we will attempt to tackle within the newsletter this term...

- ❖ Human Trafficking
- ❖ Rape Culture
- ❖ Cyberbullying

Interesting Fact

When the second king of Rome, Numa Pompilius, took to the throne in 713 BC, he had plans to make the calendar more accurate by synchronizing it with the actual lunar year, which is roughly 354 days long. Thus, two new months, January and February, were added to the end of the calendar which both had 28 days. –Burlington-record.com

Riddle of the Month

What is greater than God,
More evil than the devil,
The poor have it,
The rich need it,
And if you eat it, you'll die?

Answer: Nothing

St. Valentine: The Legend

When February comes around everyone starts thinking about Valentine's Day; but few know the legend behind the day. In lore there are three conflicting St. Valentines who have a claim on the prestige of the day. Although none of them are actually canonized saints, each is known for their work in the name of love and marriage. The most well known Valentine is commended for his bravery in defying the roman credence preventing marriage in the empire. Valentine was a Christian priest who refused to stop marrying the youth of the roman empire to appease the czar's belief that marriage was causing the youth to become bad fighters. He was captured, imprisoned, and sentenced to death for his efforts. The legend continues on to explain that while Valentine awaited his death he wrote notes of love and aspiration and threw them from his prison tower. He was beheaded on February 14th and when Christianity decided to replace the Feast of Lupercalia (a pagan festival of love) the day was declared St. Valentine's Day.

www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day



Pay It Forward

April 20th 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 and aurora.burkus-matesevaca@mymail.barry.edu



Member Submissions

Studying Abroad by Jelissa Cruz

I got the opportunity to visit France thanks to Barry's Fanjeaux Summer experience program. During my two weeks in France, I got to embark on the most enriching experiences I have had as a student. Not only did I get to learn about the French culture and its famous foods, I also shared very special moments with the faculty and students of the other 11 Dominican Universities that attended. We learned about France in the Middle Ages, poetry from the women troubadours, and Romanesque and Gothic architecture. We had excursions almost daily and these included a tour of a cave, many amazing and elaborate churches and museums, hiking to an old Cathar castle built on the mountains, and a trip to the Mediterranean. Our first visit was to the monastery in Prouilhe, the cornerstone of the Dominican order, which was founded in 1206 by St. Dominic. One of the most impressive churches that we went to was The Albi Cathedral with gothic architecture. The Albi Cathedral was built as a defensive statement against the Albigensian Crusade that took place from 1209 to 1229. The cathedral was magnificent and very unusual. There was religious art all over the inside of the cathedral that included a large mural depicting the last judgment. Visiting all the sites and learning about their history helped me understand our mission and our core commitments. The interactions I had with the other participants made the trip to Fanjeaux a real learning experience. As a group, we learned a lot from one another as we spent our days together going to mass; learning about the Dominican order; and traveling to all the different sites. Even though our universities' core commitments and missions are not the same, I found out they are the same in essence. I learned that all Dominican schools share the same devotion to giving back to the community, teamwork, and lifelong learning.



A Call for Assistance by Alek Sayers

Calling all honors program students and faculty! My senior thesis is wrapping up this semester, and I am seeking participants to do some minor work answering a survey for my research. It certainly won't take much of your time, but if you can help out, it would make my project even better than it is going to be. Plus, I happened to read in this edition of the newsletter that Pay it Forward day is coming up; what better way to pay it forward than create some good karma for your OWN thesis projects in the future? If you are interested, shoot me an email at alekzander.sayers@mymail.barry.edu . Thanks in advance! -Alek



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: 02/15, 02/29, 03/14, 03/28, 04/11, 04/25, and 05/02, Landon 204.

Honor Societies: Call for Applications



Application to Alpha Chi, Delta Epsilon Sigma, Kappa Gamma Pi, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Societies are being accepted. All applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2016. Who should apply: Barry undergraduate students with cum GPA of 3.5 and above, especially those actively involved in their majors and/or in the larger community. For more details & forms, visit Barry.edu or Student Web. Use key words “Honor Societies” or e-mail Dr. Pawena Sirimangkala @ psirimangkala@barry.edu

Meet the Faculty – Dr. Lubomir Markov



What college or university did you attend for your Undergraduate and Graduate studies?

I received my Ph. D. from the University of South Florida in Tampa. My undergraduate degree is from Sofia University in Sofia, Bulgaria – my native country.

What led you to a career in mathematics?

There are at least three reasons for which I love my subject: it is beautiful, it is true, and it is important for applications. The first two are already sufficient inspiration for many (myself included) to dedicate an entire professional life to the study of mathematics. For example, most parts of number theory have no applications at all, yet a lot of effort is devoted to its problems which are of fundamental theoretical importance and also because they possess surreal beauty. On the other end of

the spectrum stand the awesome mathematical models applied in physics, quantum chemistry and even biology (genetics, for example). Finally, there are applications in engineering, computing, architecture, statistics and so on which, even though far less demanding in terms of mathematical theory, are nonetheless critically important in life. As to the teaching aspect of the career, sharing all of the above with my students has been a large and fun part of what I do.

Why did you decide to teach at Barry University?

I came to Barry almost immediately after I finished graduate school. The decision to come here was based on a variety of reasons, but most importantly on Barry's reputation as a leading institution of higher learning in Florida, its mission, and its religious dimension.

What do you like most about Barry?

Most of all I like Barry's rigorous academic programs and the small classes. I think that students choose to come here for the same reasons. The excellent collegial atmosphere in the university contributes greatly as well – it is a pleasure to work in such a friendly environment.

What drew you to become an Honors Program faculty member?

I have been very impressed with the Honors Program ever since I first became acquainted with it. It is a pleasure to see that the students are judged by merit and by nothing else. As far as I am concerned, that ought to be the only type of judgment used in all aspects of life. When our Chair asked me whether I would teach "History and Philosophy of Science" in partnership with Dr. Goehl, I said yes before he had finished the question.

What are some of the projects you have worked on, or are working on currently?

My main areas of interest in mathematics are classical analysis, number theory, differential equations and geometry of abstract spaces. I am currently working on several problems from these fields. One problem from classical analysis is to extend fundamental calculus results (Rolle's Theorem, for example) to complex functions. And I am always interested in problems involving irrationality and transcendence of numbers. They have turned out to be exceptionally difficult. If you remember the "Squaring of the Circle Problem" from school – that it is impossible to construct a square having the same area as a given circle, using only a compass and a straightedge – it took roughly 2300 years to solve (over 3500 years if one counts from its first known appearance in rudimentary form in the Rhind Papyrus). How is that for a tough math homework?

What inspires you the most?

That people can achieve exceptional things when they set their minds to it.

What advice would you have wished someone had told you as an undergraduate student?

Enjoy the relaxed undergraduate days, because graduate school is coming!

Do you have any other words of wisdom you would like to share with the HP Community?

Well, you should consult the philosophers on those... but OK, if you insist: Choose your career field very carefully, you'll be spending the rest of your life in it. And then aim high.

Senior Salute

Bethany Dill

Where are you from and what high school did you attend?

My high school was in Canal Fulton, a small town south of Cleveland in northeast Ohio.

Why did you choose to attend Barry?

The partnership between and generosity of Barry and the Stamps Foundation allowed me to attend Barry. I found Barry's deep commitment to social justice, which was evident from the start, compelling.

What is your field of study and what drew you to this field?

I'm studying Education, drawn by the bravery of those who seek it against all odds.

What is your favorite aspect of the Honors Program?

I'm so fond of the HP community, which has only grown stronger over the last several years. Somewhere between game nights, study sessions, and HPGLS, we've become a family. I'll always carry our memories with me!

What is your research topic for your honors thesis?

My thesis regards the integration of psychosocial and academic strategies for Syrian refugee students in Lebanon. Refugees endure a great deal of trauma and need the opportunity and normalcy that education offers and the support that psychosocial interventions can provide.

What are your hobbies and passions?

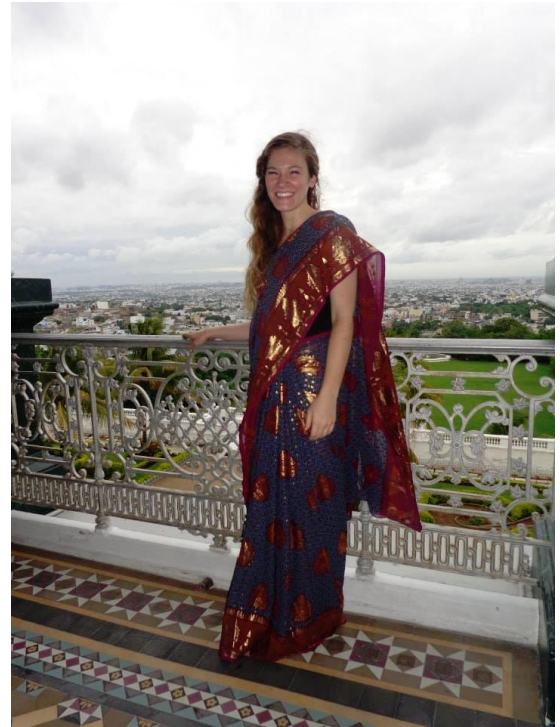
I've always loved writing. I know a woman who used her love for writing to tell a man's true story about surviving the Rwandan genocide. I would be honored to help others tell their stories and see their experiences redeemed in some way by being heard. I especially admire the life and writing of Nicholas Kristof, a journalist who has focused on social justice topics most others overlook.

What has been your most memorable college experience?

The Stamps Scholarship provided funding for me to intern with International Justice Mission (IJM) in Washington, D.C. One morning, I attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on ending modern day slavery, which was a special event to witness.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I'm anxiously awaiting responses to my applications! I hope to either be teaching English in Malta or undertaking a master's program in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies in England.



Caroline Alves Da Silva



Hi everyone! For those of you who do not know, I am from Curaçao. Curaçao is a small island in the Caribbean located more or less 40 miles north of the coast of Venezuela. Curaçao is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Therefore, our educational system is based on the Dutch system. Having lived on an island my whole life, I knew that big universities with classrooms of fifty plus students would be too overwhelming for me. For that reason, I started looking into private schools and found that Barry would be the perfect fit for me. Besides liking the profession itself, I decided to major in accounting because of my father. My father started his own accounting firm when I was younger and since then he would take me to his office after school. The more time I spend at his office the more interested I became in his career. After my first accounting classes in high school, I was convinced that I wanted to become an accountant, not just any

accountant, but a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Therefore, after graduation I will continue with my masters in accounting, become a CPA and return to Curaçao in order to transform my father's accounting firm into my own CPA firm. I know that my father's business means a lot to him and by earning my CPA license I will be able to help him make his firm grow and become more successful. My thesis topic is "How to increase the recycling rates of residential waste in the United States". I chose this research topic because there is an oil refinery situated at the center of Curaçao and the gases produced by it on a daily basis do not only pollute the air, but they also contribute to global warming which has the effect of raising the sea level. Consequently, the island will be submerged, and ultimately other countries will also be destroyed. This is something really disturbing to live with. For that reason, I have always been interested in preserving our environment, which is why I decided to do my honors thesis on recycling.

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