

Honors Program Newsletter

WELCOME!

Happy February!

My name is Paola Montenegro, and I am gladly to be the new Newsletter Editor as Hemaghini has temporarily left us to teach in Mexico. This is my second semester at Barry, and it already feels like it is turning into my second home. By assisting to the events, and forming part of the many organizations that the University has to offer, including the Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB), I have become close to many students whom I'm happy to call friends. Having said so, I'm excited for this semester, and the many fun experiences that it brings. I know that with classes, and busy schedules, the semester may be somewhat difficult at times, but as always, I remind myself that everything in life is temporary, and that it is best to enjoy the moment while being patient with myself, and my surroundings. In the future, when looking back I know that I will be happy with the decisions I've made if I always stand in a positive manner. In this way, we will continue growing, learning, and blooming into our beautiful selves.

The newsletter is an excellent opportunity to inform yourselves about current news, events held at Barry, and upcoming Honors Program activities. There will be articles that HP students themselves have written as well as interviews of HP faculty. You'll be receiving the newsletter the first week of every month, and can also find it in the Honors Program Lab or in the Honors Program website. If you have any suggestions or ideas about what you want to read in the newsletter, feel free to e-mail anyone from HPSAB (the contact information is at the end of this newsletter).

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter made with much love. Since it is the month of love, I hope you to take the time to show love to those close to you, as well as to yourself, and your classmates and teachers. In the end, we are all brothers and sisters and deserve to be treated with love and respect. I too hope you have an amazing semester, and to be patient with yourselves even when everything else is going wrong. I know that a wonderful semester awaits for us, even more so with wonderful Honors students and teachers who support us.

Best wishes,

Paola Montenegro

Editor

February fun facts:

- ♥ The month has 29 days in leap years, when the year number is divisible by four. In common years the month has 28 days.
- ♥ Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.
- ♥ Approximately 110 million roses, mostly red, will be sold and delivered within the three-day Valentine's Day time period.
- ♥ Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809.
- ♥ Black History Month is celebrated in Canada and United States.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome	1
Winter Break.....	2
Interview.....	3
Finance Advice.....	3
News Events.....	4
Alumni News	5
Upcoming Activities	6
Contact Information	6

Check out more information
on our website at :

[http://www.barry.edu/
honors-program/](http://www.barry.edu/honors-program/)

WHAT DID HPSAB DO FOR WINTER BREAK?

Winter break was a fantastic time for me to unwind from a very busy semester. It was full of fun and laughter with friends and family. I was able to catch up with old friends at screenings of *Into the Woods* and *The Interview* - both of which I highly recommend. It was cold back home in Maine, but the snow was beautiful (when it fell that is... we had a green Christmas!). It's great to be back after a fantastic period of relaxation!

Alekzander Sayers



As we encounter the spring semester, it seems as if the winter break came and went. The holiday season did not seem to be long enough--well, at least that is how I feel. During the winter break, my parents came down from New Jersey and stayed with my sister, my niece, and I for about two weeks. Their visit was long overdue. During this time my family and I was able to spend quality time as a whole by doing things, such as attending my niece's first recital, going last minute Christmas shopping, taking annual family photos, dining out, Santa's Enchanted Forest, etc. My parents were not here to bring in the New Year with my sister, my niece, and I. However, my sister and I did manage to see the ball drop on New Years Eve in Las Olas. I also had a bit more time during the break to work more hours to save up money. My favorite part of the break was the time spent with my family. After all, I had the chance to do what I wanted to do with the people I love the most.

Shadé Lovett

"Holidays are about experiences and people, and tuning into what you feel like doing at that moment. Enjoy not having to look at a watch."
- Evelyn Glennie

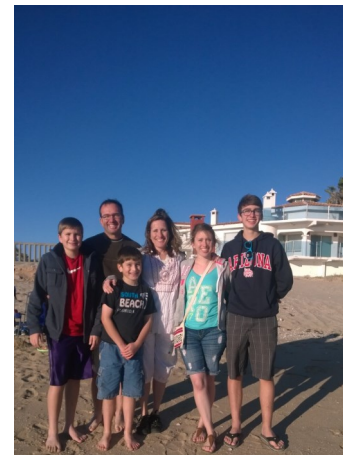
During Winter Break, I traveled back home to Venezuela to spend the holidays with my family. I devoted myself to reading books I didn't have a chance to read while at Barry, and spent quality time with family members whom I hadn't seen in a while. I too visited my school to which I attended 12 years of my life, and was like a second home to me. It is always lovely to go back home. It brings back memories which are so dear to my heart.

Paola Montenegro



For much of the break I had the pleasure of being an Assistant Editorial Board member for *Stance* journal, the leading undergraduate publication in philosophy. In between editing papers for the upcoming issue, I also got a new project entitled ***Better Man, Better Genes?: An Analysis of the Ethics of Genetic Modification in Gattaca*** accepted for publication in the fourth issue of *SciPhi Journal*. Outside of those two projects, I did a lot of work on my thesis in preparation for defense this semester, and finished applying to 11 graduate school programs in pursuit of a PhD in philosophy! In what little down time I had, I was also lucky enough to have some time to visit family over the holidays, and got to hang out with my best friends from back home. I spent my break back home in Maryland, and was shocked at how cold it was for the majority of break! Because of the ridiculous weather, in combination with being sick, I spent most of my time indoors, often dreaming of Miami weather. Although my break was filled with work, it was so wonderful to have a chance to step back from classes to spend time with my loved ones, and it was just the vacation I needed to prepare me to enter my final semester at Barry!

Cheryl Frazier



For my winter break my family and I spent Christmas in Rocky Point, Mexico. We got to enjoy the beach and collect seashells, play games and enjoy the sunlight. We also went to several different restaurants and got to try a variety of food and explore the different shops Rocky Point has to offer.

Courtney Webb

INTERVIEW WITH DR. WALLNER

Dr. Wallner teaches many Chemistry courses, and among them, he teaches Philosophy of Science for Honors Students. To get to know Dr. Wallner a little better, I interviewed him, and here is what he responded:

Where are you originally from?

Milwaukee, Wisconsin. But my parents migrated from Austria before the Nazi took over. There are many German-speaking people in Wisconsin. I learned German because in Chemistry, it was required to take 2 years of German in my undergraduate studies.

How did you begin in the Chemistry field?

I have always loved Chemistry and Math. I had a Chemistry set as a child, and I would always do experiments in the basement. In Elementary School I did not have an opportunity to study Chemistry, but in High School I did. In my senior year I was asked to be lab assistant, and so I would help the teacher with experiments, graph equations, etc., so I figured out how passionate I was for Chemistry.

What are some of the factors that contributed to your decision to come to Barry University to teach?

Mainly for professional, and personal reasons. Previously, I taught at Missouri Western State University, and I wanted a new challenge for myself. Plus, the mission from Barry was very important to me: helping young people to learn, giving people an opportunity to succeed. I try to teach others to rely on their own, and make the College process easier for students.

For personal reasons, I decided to move to Florida to be closer to my father-in-law who was sick at the time.

How did you become Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies?

You should ask my boss, haha. Back in 2009, the University was looking for someone to fulfill the Dean's position. I suppose they chose me based on my accomplishments, work ethics, knowledge, and experience.

What is your goal, career-wise?

To provide the best educational experience for students. It makes me happy to see other students having fun when doing research. I intend to help students develop skills that will help them throughout their life: critical thinking, solving problems. I try to help students question things, to not just do things because they're told to.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Bowling. Actually, I got a Bowling Scholarship which then paid for my undergraduate studies. I participated in intercollegiate bowling, and have competed all over the world. It is a great hobby.

I also play tennis, work out at the gym, and have recently began to do Yoga. I love to travel, and read. I love movies too, but independent movies, not Hollywood movies.

How do you stay healthy and fit?

Again, I work out. My goal is to work out every morning but instead, I usually go 4 to 5 times a week. I use this app on my phone that counts the number of steps you take. I also walk with my dogs; we have 4 dogs, and cats whom all have been rescued.

What are your top 5 values?

Honest, loyalty, intelligence, kindness, and empathy.

What are you most grateful for?

Definitely my parents. They have provided me with the bases for having a great life.

Who do you admire most, and why?

I admire people who fight for the rights of others. People who work to change society for the better. People who are doing things that target disenfranchised people. People who work for equality. I admire many, Larry Kramer for instance.

What advice would you give students for them to succeed in their career?

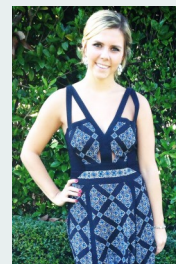
Question everything, and truly learn. Pick something that you will truly love, not what others tell you to do, or because of the money that you might earn. If you truly love what you do, you'll be successful.

Do you have any other words of wisdom you would like to share with the Honors Program community?

Take advantage of all that College has to offer: internships, events, workshops, everything. Take classes that are new and exciting adventures for you. Always challenge yourself to learn something new. Life is about learning.



AN HP STUDENT'S ADVICE ON FINANCE



As we begin a New Year in 2015, we typically set New Year resolutions. Whether it is to make healthier life choices, expand our horizons, or merely try to quit an

old habit, the start of a New Year gives us the thoughts of a new beginning and a clean slate.

As a finance major I challenge you all to look into having a New Year's resolution regarding your money. As college students we are all at the perfect time in our lives to begin learning how to manage our money and learning ways to grow it.

We can all begin by simply learning to save a little each day. Whether we save money in a savings account in a bank or we save our spare change in a piggy bank. The smallest amount can matter on a rainy day.

Next, I challenge you all to begin to educate yourselves on your credit. Understanding credit and how to keep a good credit score can mean all the difference later in life. Without good credit you will find it to be hard to get accepted by credit card companies and it will be difficult to get loans for homes and cars. Begin by making your payments on time and in turn you can lower your interest and save money in the long run.

The most challenging part about understanding your finances is understanding ways to grow your finances. Understand how the stock market works and ways to invest your money is an effective way to allow you to save money and have the potential of having substantial growth. Especially in college we are at a point in our lives where we can take risks knowing that the next few years are secure for us, assuming we all stay in school and work towards our diplomas. At this point we are able to take risks and invest in companies and watch their stocks grow and gain real world experience so that later we are more comfortable taking risk in our investments.

Understanding and dealing with money can be very confusing and scary, but at the same time very thrilling and rewarding. I challenge you all to make a New Year's resolution to not only benefit you in 2015 but provide you with a good foundation for the years to come.

Megan Copeland

Senior in Finance

CURRENT EVENTS

VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT DENIES FORMER CHILE AND COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTS' ACCESS TO LOPEZ IN JAIL

Sebastian Pinera from Chile, and Andres Pastrana from Colombia, both former presidents of their respective countries say they are in Venezuela to support the opposition. They call for the release of Leopoldo Lopez, an opposition leader who was arrested nearly a year ago.

However, current President Nicolas Maduro claimed that the former leaders were taking part in a coup d'état against him.

Leopoldo Lopez has been imprisoned in Ramo Verde, a military jail in the outskirts of the capital, Caracas. He gave himself up after an opposition in February 2014 after being issued a warrant against him.

More than 40 people were killed in the protests between February and May 2014. The government said that it was the opposition who had incited protesters to such violence. On the other hand, the opposition accuses the socialist government of Nicolas Maduro, and his predecessor, Hugo Chavez for the instable economy, and the country's many issues – insecurity, violence, food shortages, etc.

With the worsening economy, many opposition leaders are wanting for this year to be a year of change. Leopoldo Lopez, from his prison cell states, "The majority of Venezuelans want to retake the path of democracy and well-being, thus change is in our hands. Everything depends on our capacity of organizing ourselves, politically uniting and mobilizing. Let us make adversity fertile ground for change." It is an intricate issue to solve the country's many issues especially when the country is ever more polarized in its political parties; regardless, Venezuelans must all unite and fight for change because its problems are affecting not just some areas, but the whole country itself.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-30977027>

<http://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/latinoamerica/entrevista-con-leopoldo-lopez-gil-padre-del-lider-opositor-venezolano/13741179>



Lilian Tintori (Lopez's wife) with former presidents Mr. Pastrana (left) and Pinera (right).



Nicolas Maduro has been in office for nearly two years after his predecessor, Hugo Chavez passed away.



Leopoldo Lopez being arrested in front of thousands of his supporters during a protest in February 2014.

OXFAM CAUSES DEBATE WITH A STATISTIC

The theme of global inequality has emerged in recent years due to the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Its gathering will come under pressure after Oxfam's recent publication, which states that the world's wealthiest 1% will soon outnumber the net wealth of the world's 99% put together.

Winnie Byanyima, the executive director of Oxfam International said the increased concentration of wealth since the deep recession of 2008-09 was dangerous and needed to be reversed. She also said, "The message is that rising inequality is dangerous. It's bad for growth and it's bad for governance. We see a concentration of wealth capturing power and leaving ordinary people voiceless and their interests uncared for."

Oxfam said it invited governments to follow a seven point plan:

- Clamp down on tax dodging by corporations and rich individuals.
- Invest in universal, free public services such as health and education.
- Share the tax burden fairly, shifting taxation from labor and consumption toward capital and growth.
- Introduce minimum wages and move toward a living wage for all workers.
- Introduce equal pay legislation and promote economic policies to give women a fair deal.
- Ensure adequate safety nets for the poorest, including a minimum-income guarantee.
- Agree a global goal to tackle inequality.

Global inequality is on the rise and it is up to us, world citizens to become leaders and tackle these issues. As Emma Watson stated "Ask yourself if not me, who? If not now, when?"

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jan/19/global-wealth-oxfam-inequality-davos-economic-summit-switzerland>

<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21640444-oxfam-causes-stir-stat-wrong-yardstick>



Oxfam's projection that the world's top 1% will soon hold the majority of the world's wealth.

Calculation of the real income per person between 1988 and 2008.

THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS (CIW) RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS IN COMBATING FARM LABOR EXPLOITATION

The CIW is a worker-based human rights organization that started in 1993 in Immokalee, FL and is now internationally known for its achievements in social responsibility, human trafficking, and gender-based violence at work. On January 29th 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the presentation of the 2014 Presidential Medal for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking in Persons to the CIW at the White House Forum on Human Trafficking.

This is a remarkable accomplishment for the organization who with the struggle and sacrifice of thousands of field workers, has remade the agricultural industry to ensure that workers' human rights are respected, and nowadays stands as a symbol of hope for many workers who remain trapped in poverty and exploitation.

Many of the individuals in these fields work for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, picking tomatoes for the rest of the country to buy and eat. Yet these workers are treated in deplorable ways. John Kerry states, *"And when we purchase produce at a grocery store, you rarely think about the farmworkers right here in the United States, who in some cases are paid substandard wages and live in horrific conditions, with physical and verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and discrimination. The magnitude and the enormity of this challenge cannot be overstated. But so are the opportunities for change..."*

The Coalition has created many programs, among them the Anti-Slavery Campaign, the Campaign for Fair Food, and the Fair Food Program, the latter being a program based on unique partnership among farmworkers, Florida tomato growers, and participating retail buyers (Walmart, McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Fresh Market, and others).

John Kerry continued, *"That is an extraordinary accomplishment, and reminds all of us not just of the work that we have to do, but that dedicated individuals, like those here with us today from the Coalition, can strike out against injustice, break down barriers, and make the world of difference."* It is surprising what a group of people can do if they unite, and allow themselves to persevere regardless of the conditions. With the years to come and with persistent work, the Coalition might reach and reform low-wage working communities throughout the agricultural industry and around the world.

This year, Barry's Alternative Spring Break will be working with the CIW to become aware of these social issues that are taking place, and further learn about the Coalition's accomplishments, and goals here on. After March, we'll see what students have learned, and what they have to share with the Honors Program community about their experience.

<http://ciw-online.org/blog/2015/01/presidential-medal-combatting-slavery/>
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/01/236950.htm>



Secretary of State John Kerry announcing the 2014 Presidential Medal.



The CIW delegation at the White House Forum.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI:

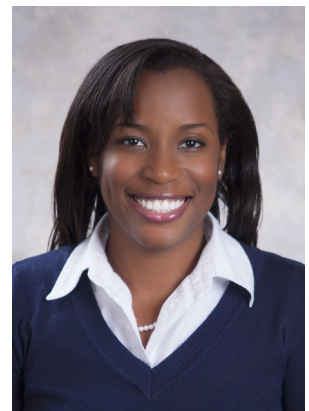
Kelsa Bartley, who graduated from the Honors Program in May 2010, has been in the news once again and was kind enough to share her news and plans for graduate school with us. Following her Senior Honors Thesis on *"The Shutterbug Project: How teaching photography to children in marginalized communities can be used to promote social justice,"* Kelsa participated in another Shutterbug photography program, created by the Pablove Foundation at the Frost Museum on the FIU campus this past fall. In her own words, Kelsa told us that she *"had so much fun teaching these kids and the opportunity was a match made in heaven."* Having created and completed her own Shutterbug Project as part of her Honors Thesis, Kelsa has been determined to pursue her career in photography. Kelsa is also in the process of applying to the MFA in Photography program at the University of Miami. Recently, Kelsa was on the Barry campus to photograph the St. Martha Concert series, something that she began doing as a Photography major while at Barry. Because of her hard work and strong work ethic, Kelsa has accomplished so much since her graduation from Barry. We wish her the best!

To learn more about Kelsa's amazing opportunity to teach a photography class for kids with cancer, please visit one of these sites:

the Miami Herald: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article5252793.html>

El Nuevo Herald: <http://www.elnuevoherald.com/vivir-mejor/salud/article3184698.html#/tabPane=tabs-57b084c3-1>

CNN en Español: <http://edition.cnn.com/videos/spanish/2015/01/12/pablove-shutterbugs-on-dra-azaret.cnn>.



HONORS PROGRAM LAB

Did you know that the Honors Program has a computer lab open to your use? Currently located in Landon 206 G, this lab provides students with a quiet place to work and study, whether it be on your Honors Program Thesis or your general coursework! The lab also features free printing to students who have a key.

Those interested in using the lab may contact Dr. Sirimangkala for more information on purchasing a key. Keys are available for a \$10 deposit, which is returned upon your completion of the program.

This lab is for HP students only.

Just a reminder for the students using the lab—be sure to be responsible about usage, sign-in, and keep the door locked.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

February 4: Basketball game: Florida Southern vs. The Buccaneers

February 5: Movie: "Dear White People" 8:00 p.m. @ Andreas 111

February 6: Peace & Justice Film "Lemon Tree" 7:00 p.m. @ Dominican Multipurpose Room

February 6-7: Lockin' His Love Retreat 8:00 p.m. @ Thompson 230

February 11 & 12: Diversity Jeopardy

February 13: College Brides Walk 8:00 a.m.—1:15 p.m.

February 13: Talent Show 4-6:00 p.m.

February 23: Peace & Justice Film "Milk" 7:00 p.m. @ Dominican Multipurpose Room

February 19: Fashion Show

February 20: Peace & Justice Film "Invictus" 7:00 p.m. @ Dominican Multipurpose Room

February 20: Festival of Nations

February 25: Inner Beauty Workshop 4:30—7:30 p.m. @ Thompson Hall

February 26: Communication Styles 101



The Brides Walk is an opportunity to bring social awareness about domestic violence, and dating violence, and at the same time fight for social justice. Various campuses in South Florida will unite in this event in our own Barry University.

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If you ever have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of the HPSAB officers!