

## *in this issue >>>*

2018 Memorable Celebrations **pg. 2**

Meet HPSAB **pg. 5**

Interview with Dr. Romano **pg. 6**

The Inside Scoop **pg. 7**

Literacy Corner **pg. 8**

Upcoming Events/HP info **pg. 9**

Volume 7

Issue 1



# *September-October 2018 Honors Program Newsletter*

*HAPPY FALL  
SEMESTER  
EVERYONE  
AND THE  
WARMEST  
WELCOME TO  
ALL NEW HP  
STUDENTS!*

**T**his Honors Program (HP) newsletter issue marks a new chapter for the Honors Program and its members. The current Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB) members have great plans for us this Fall, including a guest lecture series, field trip, social night, and holiday/graduation celebration. The HP newsletter is one of the best ways to stay up-to-date with things related to HP, including news and activities. To both returning and new HP students, I encourage you to continue contemplating on the question of “Why am I an HP student?” Besides the common program characteristics that all HP students share (e.g., maintaining your program eligibility and living by the honors code of conduct), do you know what I consider to be one of the Honors Program’s core identities? One thing comes to mind and it is the HP collaboration! I hope the new students will soon observe that within our HP community, we seek collaboration to learn and advance. The collaboration is between and among the faculty and students. While our individual goals may differ, I’m convinced that many of our goals are best accomplished through collaboration. Whether it is the stimulating class discussion, class projects, and HP events, the HP students will have completed each of their college years by collaborating with one another. Looking through the program’s history, it became clear that HP students and faculty sought to promote different social causes by organizing and/or attending HP events that HPSAB had made possible for all. I am proud of the program’s successes and humbled by mistakes learned along the way. What is most important is the process in which we go through in advancing our social causes. It is the sincerity and friendship that we also extend to one another that make this intellectual journey even more worthwhile. I am confident that this year’s HPSAB members will be no different from previous HPSAB members in their collaborative effort to create interesting programs for the HP community and the university at large.

As I continue through my own life journey, I encourage all HP students to join me in practicing good behaviors, speaking good thoughts, and thinking of ways to advance so this world becomes a better place for all. All signals have confirmed that one cannot live in isolation; and this worldly space we share with others requires us to work together, regardless of who we are and where we come from. Consequently, we each have a role in advancing social causes to improve not only our own lives but the lives of those who are waiting for justice and/or need representation; and there is no better place to accomplish this common goal than on our beloved Barry University campus. I encourage every HP student to take advantage of the program offerings and give back as much as possible. I wish all HP students much success in overcoming life obstacles through perseverance and solving all problems with a clear mind. To our beloved HP alumni, I hope you know by now that the HP Alumni News column is one of the most read columns by all! Please continue to send in your alumni news, along with your up-to-date pictures. To our dear HP faculty, thank you for your important roles in challenging our HP students to be critical thinkers and advancing their worldviews in this increasingly complex world of ours. I thank all key individuals in Admissions, Financial Aid, and the Registrar’s Offices in their Honors Program’s related roles. Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. John Murray, Provost and Dr. Karen Callaghan, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, for their strong support for the Honors Program.

**The HP collaboration lives on!  
Dr. Pawena Winnie Sirimangkala**



## 2018 Evening of Celebration and Appreciation (ECA)

Towards the end of the spring semester, our very own Honors Program seniors presented and summarized their thesis to a panel including HP faculty members, students, and distinguished Barry guests including the Dean, Dr. Karen Callaghan, and Provost, Dr. John Murray. Former HPSAB Chair, Presler Maxius delivered his stance on the migration factors that affect the mental health of refugees, drawing special attention to traumatic stress of individual's post-migration and even adding an intimate perspective from his experience as an international student.

Paola Montenegro discussed in great historical detail the United States foreign policy toward Venezuela and Chile and how it relates to US diplomacy in South American countries today. Her thesis shed light on the struggles outside of our nation and how precedent reactions toward foreign diplomacy foreshadows how we address outside countries today.



***Presler Maxius speaking on behalf of HPSAB***

Finally, Alayna Gallagher enlightened the panel with her study on preventative measures of breast cancer through a plant-based diet. Her research revealed how nutritional-informative decisions could supply the body with the proper diet that may best aid in combating preliminary cancer cells. Her in-depth research covered a scope of diet related issues that contribute to the impairment of the body's defense towards cancerous agents. The thesis presentations were followed by a warm farewell from HPSAB and Dr. Sirimangkala, as well as an induction for the officers of HPSAB. The ECA was concluded with delicious food and a large cake celebrating the seniors' sendoff for graduation in May.

### Thesis Titles

#### Presler Maxius

*Pre-Migration and Post-Migration Factors that Influence the Mental Health of Refugees*

#### Paola Montenegro

*United States foreign policy toward Venezuela (1952-1964) and Chile (1970-1990)*

#### Alayna Gallagher

*A Plant-Based Diet as a Preventative Method for Breast Cancer*



Faculty/Staff in Attendance left to right: Ms. Roxanna Cruz, Ms. Angela Scott, Dr. John Murray, Dr. Karen Callaghan (not pictured), Dr. Romano, HP faculty Dr. Byrne (not pictured), Dr. Markov, Dr. Cvejanovich



So long Seniors: Presler Maxius, Paola Montenegro, and Alayna Gallagher cutting a slice of cake for their sweet goodbye

**The ECA took place on April 26, 2018.**

# May Graduation 2018

The ceremony took place at the James L Knight Center, Brickell Ave., Miami, Fl. All three seniors successfully defended their thesis and completed all their honors requirements in a timely fashion.



May 2018 HP graduates

Alayna Gallagher

Presler Maxius

Paola Montenegro

\*Right to left\*



## HP News>>>

- ❖ Currently, the Honors Program (HP) is home to 31 Barry University students (14 new students and 17 returning students).
- ❖ This semester also marks a beginning for the current Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB). Fall 2018 HPSAB is consisted of Nina Escalante and Abigail Solorzano as co-chairs, Michidael Ceard as secretary, Johania Charles and Nicole Rafols as co-editors, Nicole Rafols also as student liaison, and Arin Blake as service coordinator (see inside each newsletter issue for HPSAB's contact information). HPSAB meets weekly on Tuesdays from 4:00 – 4:30 pm in Lehman 328.
- ❖ This Fall term, the program also welcomes two new HP faculty members; Dr. Sean Erwin (Department of Theology and Philosophy) currently teaches PHI 191H Judeo-Christian Doctrine and Dr. Lisa Konczal (Department of Sociology and Criminology) currently teaches SOC 394H The World in America. The co-editors have plans to feature interviews with Dr. Erwin and Dr. Konczal in one of the upcoming Fall 2018 newsletter issues.

## Majors

Presler: Psychology & Philosophy  
Alayna: Pre-Professional Biology  
Paola: International Studies



The HP office has moved. The new HP office location is in Garner Hall, Room 129.



# HONORS CONVOCATION

**May 4, 2018**

The Honors Convocation recognizes all students at Barry University who have demonstrated academic excellence. As a program that encompasses an elevated scholarly experience, the Honors program and its students are either inducted into several of Barry's Honor society's or participants throughout the ceremony. Honor Societies are separate from the Honors Program. Honor



**HP Volunteers with Dr. Sirimangkala: Presler Maxius, Abigail Solorzano, Maegan Cuesta, Kailyn Belle Isle, Nina Escalante, Adriel Solorzano and award recipient Paola Montenegro  
\*left to right\***

Societies will enlist Barry students that may not necessarily be a part of the Honors program. There are four honor societies to consider – Alpha Chi for seniors, Delta Epsilon Sigma and Kappa Gamma Pi for both juniors and seniors, and Phi Eta Sigma for first-year students. Some of our very own Honors students were acknowledged at the ceremony. Paola Montenegro received the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award, and Johania Charles was named the Dr. Lloyd D. Elgart Scholarship Recipient. Dr. Lloyd Elgart always spoke with particular admiration about his students who persisted in their studies in the face of obstacles that life has thrown in their path. In that spirit, the award committee members who decide on the recipient of this scholarship are charged with the challenging task of looking beyond financial needs and even stellar qualifications to select a student who has demonstrated courage or resilience despite difficult odds.

The Honors Convocation highlighted the academic merits and admirable ethics of all Barry's students, and rallied a theme of innovation, touching base on how these particular students not only excelled in their area of study but plowed their very own success journeys post-graduation. With the help of a few HP student volunteers (see photo above), the convocation was among one of the most memorable events we've had!



**Dr. Karen Callaghan (Dean of College of Arts & Sciences) presents one of the College Dean's Awards to Paola Montenegro**



**Dr. Lillian Schanfield (widow of Dr. Elgart) presents the Elgart Scholarship award to Johania Charles**



## MEET HPSAB



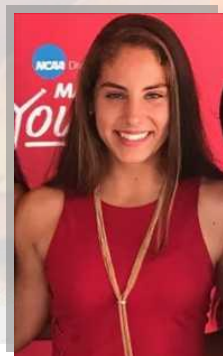
**Nina Escalante**  
Co-Chair  
Years in HPSAB: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Years in HP: 3<sup>rd</sup> (Senior)



**Abigail Soloranzo**  
Co-Chair  
Years in HPSAB: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Years in HP: 3<sup>rd</sup> (Senior)



**Michidael Ceard**  
Secretary  
Years in HPSAB: 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
Years in HP: 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
(Junior)



**Nicole Rafols**  
Co-Editor/Student  
Liason  
Years in HPSAB: 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Years in HP: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
(Junior)



**Johania Charles**  
Co-Editor  
Years in HPSAB: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Years in HP: 2<sup>nd</sup> (Junior)



**Arin Blake**  
Service Coordinator  
Years in HPSAB: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Years in HP: 2<sup>nd</sup> (Junior)

## HP BUDDY SYSTEM

The purpose of the Buddy system is for all students to have someone they can turn to when they have questions about anything, whether it's the HP program, academics or anything in general. Your Buddy is here to help, don't be afraid to contact them if you ever need anything. Below is a list of all HP students with your buddy/ HPSAB member at the very top

Mishee	Arin	Nina	Nicole	Abby	Johania
Brooklynn Regier Jonathan Rojas Anaya Ruiz Kira Turington	Kailyn Belle Isle Dillon Deary Stefan Jugmohan Victoria Rodriguez	Dylan Graziani Rebecca Johnson Evdoxia Mastrominas David Rodriquez	Taylor Checkley Sofia De la Puente Lauren Hall Emma Hergot Brianna Lopez	Dainely Fabregas Gabriela Jansen Walter MacWaters Adriel Soloranzo	Erica Cruz Emma James Tamica McKenzie Anastasia Samokhvalova

# HP FACULTY: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr. Victor Romano



*Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Undergraduate Studies*

“I think the major challenge facing students today is triviality. I think we live in a society today that rewards the emptiest and most ostentatious individuals. The challenge for students today is to find the occupation worthy of their developing aspirations and attitudes... we live in a culture where it's very easy to choose glitz over substance. Students should prepare to find meaning in their chosen career and life.”

## **Can you give us a brief educational background?**

I received my undergraduate degree from Florida International University in Sociology and Anthropology. My graduate degrees (MA and PhD) from the University of Florida, were also in Sociology. A background of my career, I've been a behavior analyst with autistic children, crew member on a blimp, shopper for a woman that had emphysema. President of graduate student labor union. Highschool teacher and coached water polo at Miami Killian Senior High. I was the chairperson for Miami Dade commission for Human Right. Currently, the chairperson for Hope Inc. Served 10 years at Barry and taught sociology, also for the Honors Program – America in The World.

## **Give us a brief background of what this class was like**

A course like this (SOC 394H) is hard to summarize – it concerns itself with the world and issues currently and historically within the U.S. Through the lens of groups who have been historically marginalized or oppressed by the US Government.

## **What did you enjoy most about the Honors Program?**

The students and small class sizes. The caliber of discussion was extremely high. HP students really are cream of the crop and always up to the challenge.

## **Any recommendations to the Honors Program for summer readings?**

Definitely the books I used to assign, I have a few in mind: *Lies my teacher told me: Everything your American history textbook got wrong* by James W. Loewen, *Falling behind: How rising inequality harms the middle class* by Robert H. Frank, *Racism without racists: Colorblind racism and the persistence of racial inequality in America* by Eduardo Bonilla Silva.

## **Any advice for those writing their thesis?**

Keep writing! Write, write and write some more. This is honestly the best advice. Often times, more true for a dissertation, if a person just wrote a sentence or two per day, one would be able to finish in a timely manner. Write often, much of what you write may be discarded but it's the process that matters.

## **Dr. Romano's sociological value**

*“Our understanding of how society shapes our perspective and how our personal biography reflects the position that we hold in society.”*



## THE INSIDE SCOOP: LIFE OF A STUDENT ATHLETE



Hi everyone!

**M**y name is Taylor Checkley. Last spring, I finished my freshman year at Barry as a Biology major, member of the Honors Program, and student-athlete, and it was quite the experience. My first year of college was very enjoyable and I've already met so many amazing people here at Barry, including my peers, coaches, professors, and staff. This year, however, is also accompanied with some challenges regarding balancing the demands of academics, softball, and extracurricular.

As expected when pursuing a bachelor's degree in science, school work was quite demanding and required many hours of quality study time. So, like many of my peers, the library became my second home and trips to the library before, in between, and after classes became part of my everyday routine. The work became especially challenging when softball practices and games became abundantly frequent in the spring. Late night and early morning study sessions were the only ways to manage them both. Along with my dedication to softball and my school work, I also had a commitment to the Honors program. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend many events last year due to conflicting schedules, but the ones I did attend were great and I hope to manage my schedule in such a way that I can attend more this year.

Balancing academics with softball and the Honors Program events can sometimes feel overwhelming and stressful but I've decided that it's worth it. I'm willing to take on the stress of trying to balance these things if it means I get to play the sport that I love while pursuing this field of study that will prepare me for my future. Last year was filled with ups and downs, but it was overall a great time and I'd like to thank all of my family and friends who were always supportive and helped me make it a successful first year of college. I hope this year will be a great year for all of you.

## LITERACY CORNER



### BELOVED BY TONI MORRISON

Morrison offers startling commentary on slavery in *Beloved* with the way she creates her characters. In the words of her protagonist Sethe, “Freeing yourself was one thing, claiming ownership of that freed self was another.” Left alone to figure out the pieces of post-enslaved life, were African Americans free? *Beloved* by Toni Morrison gives us the shocking answer.

### The Meaning of Freedom

There are many novels that attack the repercussions of slavery on African Americans. However, the critically acclaimed novel, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison provides a fresh perspective when portraying the hardships and circumstances of slavery survivors. Morrison’s use of the past in fueling the present drives the novel into timelessness as readers are invited on a grief-ridden journey that wheels in the past but still manages to give us a look at the future.

*Beloved* centers around an ex-slave woman named Sethe who lives inside the haunted house of 124 with her daughter Denver on the outskirts of Cincinnati. The ghost that haunts this home is her dead daughter that she murdered herself to keep from becoming a slave at her old plantation. An old friend arrives at 124 and chases the ghost away only for it to come back in physical form. With the arrival of this ghost, the characters in the novel are pushed to reflect on their past experiences with slavery. The novel concludes with hope beaconing clear for all characters as they make amends with the transgressions that befell them in the past.

Morrison utilizes abrupt flashbacks in the novel as each character commences to heal from their horrific pasts. These flashbacks are coined by Morrison as “rememory” which is essentially a collection of memories that are meant to be reflected and remembered continuously. This concept of “rememory” is essential in shaping the identities of many of the different characters in the novel. The utilization of such is very effective in showcasing the negative psychological effects that slavery had on different individuals.

*The book review was written by  
Michidael Ceard, Secretary, HPSAB.*



## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Student Orientation

#### Upcoming Events

##### HP Field Trip

October 13<sup>th</sup>

Perez Art Museum

*\*Come bond outside the classroom setting, meet new friends and faculty\**

##### Game night

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lehman 328 4:00-5:30 pm

*\*Enjoy a night of some challenging trivia and board games\**

We thank you all for taking time out of your schedule to attend the new student orientation and we greatly appreciate the opportunity to welcome the new HP students to the program. If you ever have any questions about the program, feel free to contact our program director, Dr. Sirimangkala at [psirimangkala@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangkala@barry.edu). We look forward to seeing you all at our next events.



Honors Program Director  
Dr. Sirimangkala



Provost explaining HP  
expectations and benefits



Dean Callaghan elaborating on  
HP course load



New HP students with 3 returning students & HPSAB

OUR MANDATORY NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY SEPTMEBER 25<sup>TH</sup>. NEW STUDENTS HAD A CHANCE TO MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE CRUCIAL TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROGRAM SUCH AS DR. SIRIMANGKALA, HP FACULTY (DRS. BYRNE, MARKOV, AND GOEHL), THE PROVOST (DR. MURRAY), DEAN (DR. CALLAGHAN) AND VICE PROVOST (DR. ROMANO). STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT HP COURSELOAD, MET HPSAB AND LEARNED ABOUT EVERYTHING THEY HAVE PLANNED FOR THE SEMESTER. THERE WAS ALSO A GUEST SPEAKER FROM GILLMAN SCHOLARSHIP TO INFORM STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP.

## HP Requirements/Information

As an Honors Program student, there are certain things required to maintain your spot. These requirements allow you to get the full HP experience.....it's definitely worth it.

- Complete Senior Thesis before graduation
- Enroll in 1 HP course per semester
- Maintain GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Attend at least 2 HP events per semester



### Why HPSAB members joined HPSAB

*"Being in HP is a great privilege and opportunity but I felt that my attendance of classes was just not enough. I needed to get more involved in this program that was giving me so much. HPSAB is my way to get involved and give back"*

**-Nina**

*"Being able to give back to HP by being part of HPSAB is a great way of showing how thankful I am and what an honor it is to be a part of a group of young men and women who strive to be the best they can be"*

**-Abby (Abigail)**

*"I joined HPSAB to become more active in my academic and social communities. I believe that being on HPSAB is a great opportunity to invest in my future while also improving my overall college experience"*

**-Arin**

*"I joined HPSAB because I thought it would be the most effective way to contribute and be more active in the Honors Program. With my position in HPSAB, my goal is to find opportunities that we can all participate in to enhance our HP experience"*

**-Johania**

*"To contribute to the program that does so much for me and my fellow athletes"*

**-Nicole**

*"When given an opportunity to serve, it should be taken wholeheartedly. I joined HPSAB because I wanted the opportunity to make the HP experience the best it could possibly be for my HP peers. HPSAB will also equip me with life-long tools that will ensure my future success"*

**-Mishee (Michidael)**

### HPSAB Contacts

**Dr. Sirimangkala, Faculty Advisor**

305-899-3453; Garner 129

[psirimangkala@barry.edu](mailto:psirimangkala@barry.edu)

**Nina Escalante, Co-Chair**

786-427-0317

[nina.escalante@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:nina.escalante@mymail.barry.edu)

**Abigail Solórzano, Co-Chair**

786-657-1254

[abigail.solorzano@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:abigail.solorzano@mymail.barry.edu)

**Nicole Rafols, Co-Editor**

305-794-9077

[nicole.rafols@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:nicole.rafols@mymail.barry.edu)

**Johania Charles, Co-Editor**

786-326-6183

[johania.charles@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:johania.charles@mymail.barry.edu)

**Michidael Ceard, Secretary**

786-681-7589

[michidael.ceard@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:michidael.ceard@mymail.barry.edu)

**Arin Blake, Service Coordinator**

202-368-5303

[arin.blake@mymail.barry.edu](mailto:arin.blake@mymail.barry.edu)

**Need to print? One of the many benefits of being an HP student is FREE printing. Print to your heart's desire at our Landon 206G lab with a \$10 key deposit, no need to pay per page.**



**Contact Dr. Sirimangkala for printing paper**