

HONORS PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

Welcome!

by Abigail Solórzano and Nina Escalante

Thank you for joining us as we begin a brand new journey as co-editors of HP's newsletter.

Congratulations to all the new members that, through their dedication toward academic achievement, have joined us in the effort to excel on Barry's campus. And of course, welcome back fellow members!

First, we would like to introduce ourselves, Abigail Solórzano and Nina Escalante as the new co-editors of your HP newsletter. We are excited to see what this semester has in store for all of us! We would also like to apologize for the delay in launching the semester's first newsletter, but due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to meet the deadline. We truly hope that each of you and your families are found safe and well after the past few hurricanes and other natural disasters.

We would like to encourage you all to get involved! There are all sorts of opportunities on Barry's campus. Don't let your college years pass you by without gaining some leadership experience.

As we look back on this week of midterms, we hope that you all did well and were not too overwhelmed or stressed.

(Look out for our upcoming game night for an opportunity to destress!)

We can always rely on the comfort that Christmas break is approaching! That being said, we are now in the last half of the semester and we strongly believe that you all will do your best and put your best foot forward. Even though it seems as if we have just begun the semester, we are already halfway through it! We look forward to hearing any feedback or ideas from you! We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

All the best,
Abby and Nina

In This Issue

Page 2 ... Director's Welcome

Page 2 ... Meet HPSAB

Page 3 ... Hurricane Irma Flurry

Page 4-5 ... HP Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Page 5 ... HP Faculty: Where Are They Now?

Page 6 ... Calendar of Events

Page 6 ... HP Roster

Page 7 ... Honors Convocation

HP Contact Info

Presler Maxius 786-655-3846

presler.maxius@mymail.barry.edu

Rhasheda Weir 786-916-0907

rhasheda.weir@mymail.barry.edu

Chantel Drysdale 347-882-0250

chantel.drysdale@mymail.barry.edu

Nina Escalante 786-427-0317

nina.escalante@mymail.barry.edu

Abigail Solórzano 786-657-1254

abigail.solorzano@mymail.barry.edu

Dr. Sirimangkala (Faculty Advisor)

psirimangkala@barry.edu

Director's Welcome!



For those that are new to the program, could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Dr. Pawena Sirimangkala, and I am the Honors Program (HP) Director and Associate Professor of Communication. I earned my doctorate degree in Communication with a specialization in Intercultural Communication from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, in 1993.

What are you currently working on or what are your research interests?

During my sabbatical in fall 2016, I traveled to Taichung, Taiwan to advance my Chinese-Mandarin and successfully passed Band A of the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL, a standardized test developed for non-native speakers of Chinese). My current research examines the Chinese identities as portrayed in contemporary's Chinese media and through the Chinese's Writing Systems. While I was first introduced to China's Simplified Writing System, I am now devoted to advancing my Chinese reading comprehension, under Taiwan's Traditional Writing System. Having lived in both China and Taiwan, my research focus is mainly to write about the Chinese cultural characteristics from these two Chinese cultural perspectives. My current goal is also to pass TOCFL's Band B and have a command of up to 1,000 Chinese characters.

Could you tell us a little about your career before Barry?

Prior to coming to Barry University in 1997, I taught at Kent State University and University of Arizona.

What does your job entail now? At Barry, I teach both communication and two of the HP courses (HUM 199H and HUM 300H) and enjoy traveling with HP students to present their research papers at national and regional Honors conferences. In the past, I directed five Study Abroad Programs at Barry (co-directed the Thailand Study Abroad Program in 2006 and 2007 and directed the Honors Program's China Study Abroad in 2010, 2011, and 2012).

What are current goals for HP students? To encourage more HP students to get involved in all aspects of the program and to travel to present papers at the Honors conferences.

Meet HPSAB

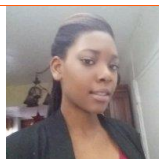


Presler Maxius

Co-Chair
Senior
Years in HP: 4
Years in HPSAB: 3

Why I joined HPSAB:

I serve because, under the supervision of Dr. Sirimangkala, HPSAB is an incredible opportunity for me to grow as a leader. There is just so much to learn from someone who is as respected as Dr. Sirimangkala. Additionally, I serve because I get to help plan activities (fun and educational) for the rest of the honors program students, and I also get a say in decisions that affect us students.

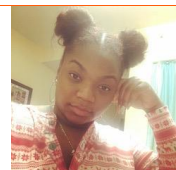


Rhasheda Weir

Co-Chair
Senior
Years in HP: 2 ½
Years in HPSAB: 1 ½

Why I joined HPSAB:

I wanted to continue gaining as much as I could from the program, and so when offered the chance to work on the Honors Program Advisory Board, I jumped at it. HPSAB exposes you to leadership roles that you will encounter in the future.

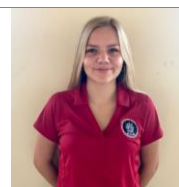


Chantel Drysdale

Secretary
Senior
Years in HP: 3
Years in HPSAB: 2

Why I joined HPSAB:

I enjoy participating in the events that happen in HP, but I enjoy the events more when I know that I helped put them together. It's a nice feeling when I hear that my HP peers had fun or learned something from an event that I helped organize. Plus, HPSAB is a great group of people to be around.



Nina Escalante

Co-Editor
Junior
Years in HP: 2
Years in HPSAB: 1

Why I 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.



Abigail Solórzano

Co-Editor
Junior
Years in HP: 2
Years in HPSAB: 1

Why I joined HPSAB:

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.

Hurricane Irma Flurry

This past September, many of the Caribbean islands, along with the state of Florida, were struck with what has been called a historical cyclone that made history – Hurricane Irma. The aftermath of this powerful storm will forever mark our history, having left many without power and water for weeks, and others without homes.

But while the storm itself left considerable damage, the flurry caused before it hit left many people stranded without a way of leaving, grocery stores without necessary food items, and gas stations without gas. And many of our Honors Program members struggled with getting out or reaching their family members.

Presler Maxius: During Irma, I could not get in contact with my family in Haiti. My mom, my sister, and my brother live

there. So while everyone was evacuating and going to shelters, I was hopelessly trying to figure out if my family was safe. I did not reach them until about two weeks after the hurricane had passed over Florida. The whole experience was very emotionally draining.

Chantel Drysdale: Hurricane Irma was an experience that I would never want to go through ever again. Fortunately, I did not have to witness any of the physical damage that it caused, because I was able to fly back home. However, trying to get a flight out of Florida was a huge hassle. I had to call and search online for a plane ticket for several hours. Just when I thought things were hopeless and I would have to stay in a shelter, I got a plane ticket. The ticket was from Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Albany, New York. I live in Bronx, New York, which is three hours from Albany, New York.

Therefore, I had to take an Uber to Fort Lauderdale Airport, then a plane to Albany Airport, a cab to Albany train station, a train to Penn Station in Manhattan where my parents were finally able to pick me up. The whole thing was a big ordeal, but fortunately, I made it home safely.

Rhasheda Weir: During Hurricane Irma, I had to evacuate my apartment and move in with my sister. My apartment was located close to an evacuation zone; and so to ensure my safety, I packed up my things and left. Thankfully, I did not lose any personal belongings to the storm; however, I had no power or cell service for couple of days.

HP BUDDY SYSTEM

This Fall 2017 semester, and under HPSAB Co-Chair Rhasheda Weir's initiative, the Honors Program has incorporated a Buddy System in which all HP members will be able to keep in touch and communicate in case of emergencies or help. Below are the names of each of the HPSAB members who will be reaching out and keeping in touch. Feel free to reach out to us too!

Chantel Drysdale	Rhasheda Weir	Presler Maxius	Nina Escalante	Abigail Solorzano
Vania Arboleda Maegan Cuesta Kailyn Belle Isle Lauren Hall	Kristina Filimonova Alayna Gallagher Arin Blake Paola Montenegro	David Rodriguez Nicole Rafols Johania Charles Stefan Jugmohan	Sofia De la Puente Isaac Sellers Taylor Checkley	Rebecca Johnson Erica Cruz Emily Witkowski

HP Alumni: Where Are They Now?

To all Alumni: Thank you very much for sending in your news!



Cheryl Frazier at Yale University

Cheryl Frazier entered the Honors Program in Fall of 2011 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Barry University in May 2015. Her Senior Honors Thesis title was *"A culture of communication: A critical examination of modern implications of social networking sites."* Cheryl also served on HPSAB (2011 – 2015) as Co-Chair (2013 – 2015) and Historian and the first HP Newsletter Editor (2012). Here is what she says:

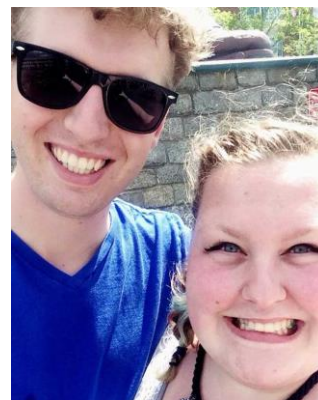
"Since I graduated from Barry, I have begun pursuing my PhD in philosophy at the University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman, Oklahoma. Norman is a relatively small town in comparison to Miami, so moving here was quite the culture shock. I also had to adjust to my first real winter in years, but have loved getting to experience all 4 seasons again!

In May I completed the Master's degree portion of my program, so I now have approximately 3-4 years left until I have my PhD. I plan to specialize in applied ethics and the philosophy of art, both of which I learned to love thanks to former HP faculty member Dr. Ruth Tallman. In the summer of 2016 I had the privilege of attending the Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics at Yale University, where I received the Pollard Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Research for my research on university responses to student suicide attempts.

Over this past summer I have been busy doing research on potential topics for my dissertation. I hope to write on something involving mental health and the importance of art in treating mental illness. I was also recently published in a chapter of the book *Hamilton and Philosophy: Revolutionary Thinking!*

Outside of research I serve as my university's Minorities and Philosophy chapter representative, and I am a co-coach of our Ethics Bowl Team. I've also enjoyed my time making new friends and exploring life in the Midwest!

The friendships I formed while in the Honors Program have truly become lifelong friendships!"



Two former HPSAB members, now lifelong friends: Cheryl Frazier and Alek Sayers. Cheryl's own caption of the above photo "Alek and I got to have a mini-HPSAB reunion in July 2016 while I was in Connecticut for the program at Yale. I drove up one weekend to Maine to visit him!"



Dianna entered the Honors Program in 2010 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Barry University in May 2014. Her Senior Honors Thesis title was "Selling Social Consciousness: The Irony and Implications of Mass Marketing Young Adult Dystopian Fiction." Dianna also served on HPSAB (as Secretary in 2011 and as HPSAB Chair from 2012–2014). Here is what she says:

"After graduating with my masters in English from Eastern Illinois University, I moved back to home to the place where I spent most of my childhood: Phoenix. I've been out in Arizona for about a year

now and loving reconnecting with childhood friends, spending quality time with my sister, and, of course, soaking up all the sun I can get!

One of my best friends from Barry has actually just moved out as well, so I am helping her get adjusted (proof that the connections made at Barry can last a lifetime!).

I teach English composition at Mesa Community College and will be starting training to adjunct for Southern New Hampshire University in their online adult continuing education program.

As someone who always felt at home in the classroom, it is an honor and pleasure to get to see the other side of the desk (so to speak). I regularly channel my favorite professors when I struggle in the classroom (like spelling words wrong on the white board), and find myself reflecting back on just how wonderful they were often.

In my spare time, I travel, hike, rock climb, attend concerts, cosplay, and like any true millennial watch way too much Netflix and Hulu."



Diane and her roommates from Barry



Raul Ballester and his twin boys

Raul Ballester entered the Honors Program in Fall 2009 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Barry University in May 2011. His Senior Honors Thesis title was "The Law of Diminishing Return: An Empirical Study of China's Economic Growth." Here is what he says:

"My personal and professional life are advancing faster than ever! Personally, my two boys (twins – Brian and Adam), recently turned 2 this August – without a doubt they are my greatest accomplishment. Professionally – I am now in the Corporate Finance Audit department. This role has me travelling all over the world for extended periods of time; while providing exposure to some of our top projects in Africa, Asia, and Australia. My day to day are a bit hectic, but with proper planning, anything is manageable, from daycare activities and sports for my boys, to work meetings and projects. We recently built and moved into our new home.

HP Faculty: Where Are They Now?



Dr. Ruth Tallman taught PHI 191H (Judeo-Christian Doctrine) for the Honors Program from August 2013 until May 2017. HP students often

indicated that PHI 191H was one of the best classes they took in the program. Below are some sentiments we received from HP students upon hearing the news that Dr. Tallman took a teaching position at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater.

~ **Alayna Gallagher:** "I really enjoyed Dr. Tallman's PHI 191H class."

~ **Chantel Drysdale:** "Dr. Tallman always made going to her class worth it. I had a great opportunity to be in two of

her classes: PHI 191H and BIO-Medical Ethics. I always learned something new in each class and had many compelling discussions with her and other students. She definitely made my experience at Barry University better. Thank you, Dr. Tallman. You are absolutely missed at Barry U."

~ **Nina Escalante:** "Dr. Tallman was my favorite professor! I took two philosophy classes with her, and I was supposed to take a third. Who will I take that class with now?"

~ **Abigail Solorzano:** "No other professor has challenged me (in a good way) as Dr. Tallman. She made every class not only enjoyable but a real learning experience."

Here is what Dr. Tallman wrote to us:

"As for my news, I'm teaching philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I'll be heading up (we're currently in the process of creating it) a new applied ethics track inside the philosophy major here. We've enjoyed an absolutely gorgeous summer and fall. It's been awesome watching the leaves change color! I'm living in a small town where I can walk to the farmer's market on Saturday mornings - so much great local produce! The apple cider up there is to die for! I'm not at all excited about my first winter in 7 years, though! I miss you all so much and hope everyone is doing well!

Best, Ruth

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 HP Mandatory New Student Orientation Lehman 328 5:30-6:00 PM	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 HP Newsletter Publication	16	17	18 HP Mandatory Thesis Orientation Landon 203 4:00-5:00 PM	19	20	21
22	23 Round Table Discussion with Students Who Have Hidden Disabilities Andreas 112 4:00-6:00 PM HP T-shirt Order Deadline	24	25	26 Lunch and Learn Learning Disabilities With Dr. Linda Bacheller Landon Events Room 1:00-2:15 PM HP GAME NIGHT Lehman 328 5:30 PM	27	28
29	30 Miami Heat Wheels Demonstration Barry Gym 11:00 AM-12:00 PM 12:00 PM-1:00 PM	31	NOTES: <u>Don't forget to order your HP T-shirt by Oct. 23!</u> Contact Dr. Sirimangkala <u>NOVEMBER 1ST - Pre-Registration for returning students</u>			

HP Roster

<u>BIOLOGY</u>					
Vania Arboleda Kristina Filimonova Alayna Gallagher		Arin Blake Chantel Drysdale Kailyn Belle Isle		Taylor Checkley Erica Cruz Lauren Hall Nicole Rafols	
<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>ATHLETIC TRAINING</u>	<u>COMMUNICATION</u>	<u>PSYCHOLOGY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Johania Charles	Maegan Cuesta	Sofia De la Puente	Nina Escalante	Rebecca Johnson Presler Maxius	Isaac Sellers
<u>ACCOUNTING</u>	<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>	<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	<u>ART</u>	<u>PRE-NURSING</u>	
Stefan Jugmohan	Paola Montenegro	David Rodriguez Rhasheda Weir	Abigail Solórzano	Emily Witkowski	

HONORS CONVOCATION 2017

Each May, students are recognized for their academic excellence at the Honors Convocation. Last May, there were three HP students who received awards. The Honors Committee greatly appreciated the five HP students who volunteered at the event. See HP special moments from the event below.



St. Catherine Medal Recipient: Presler Maxius receiving the award from Sister Linda Bevilacqua President of Barry University



Kevin Dalia: St. Catherine Medal and Deans' Awards Recipient (pictured with Dean Callaghan)



Joleen Cooper: Alpha Chi, Delta Epsilon Sigma, and Kappa Gamma Pi Honor Societies (pictured with Fr. Padilla and Dr. Cvejanovich)



Deans' Awards Recipient: Jessica Cousett receiving the award from Dean Callaghan



HP student volunteers at the Honors Convocation:

Pictured Left: Rebecca Johnson, Sofia De la Puente, and Nicole Rafols

Pictured Right: Vania Arboleda and Alayna Gallagher

