

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2023

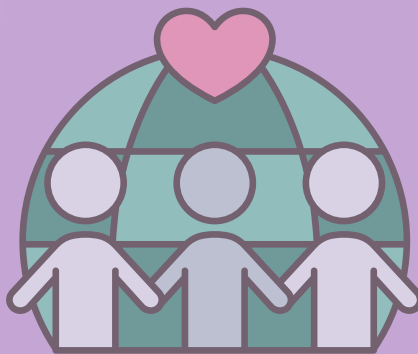
# COMPASSION

Barry University  
Honors Program Newsletter



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- HPSAB GREETINGS
- HPSAB STAFF
- ANNUAL PUMPKIN PAINTING EVENT
- LIFE IN MIAMI ARTICLE
- DEEPFAKES ARTICLE
- SOCIAL CORNER
- ALUMNI NEWS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- UPCOMING EVENTS





# HPSAB GREETINGS

Hello everyone. I hope the semester is going well for you. We're almost at the end! The theme this month is compassion, which is something very important to me. I have dealt with many difficult times in my life and what got me through it was compassion for others. You never really know what someone is going through or what they are dealing with. By being compassionate to everyone around you, you could be the brightness on a world of darkness for someone that needs it

-Emilyanne Eckardt

We are all familiar with the expression, "strength in unity"; it is one of the truest there is. Compassion requires unity, and it is the comfort, strength, support and courage we give when we are compassionate to others, and what we feel when we receive compassion. Everyone has battles they face, and seasons in life that seem impossible to endure - compassion is what helps us to get by. It is important for us to be kind to others, to empathize with others and to be compassionate towards everyone. You may not be able to touch the lives of others in a physical or material sense, but the compassion you extend to others may be their saving grace mentally and emotionally. We all need each other, it is important to spread compassion.

-Brienne McPhee

Compassion for me means giving of oneself for another. It's something unconditional. It's something you just do because you care and love that special person. Showing compassion for others can be as simple as giving someone a hug or letting them know that you're there for them. It can also be as extravagant as buying someone a gift or taking them to their dream vacation spot. It's the little things that matter most and honestly, we all need a little love and appreciation once and awhile.

It reminds us all that we matter to someone. Whether we know it or not.

-Sierra Johnson

# HPSAB Staff



**Brendalis Puig**  
*Co-Chair*



**Virginia Rivas**  
*Co-Chair*



**Sean Chin Loy**  
*Graphic Designer*



**Sophia Juaquet**  
*Newsletter Staff*



**Emilyyanne Eckardt**  
*Newsletter Chief Editor*

# HPSAB Staff



**Viviana Rivas**  
*Newsletter Staff*



**Sierra Johnson**  
*Secretary / Graphic Designer*



**Brianne McPhee**  
*Public Relations Officer/  
Social Corner Writer*



**Grace Steffan**  
*Newsletter Staff*

# PUMPKIN PAINTING



On October 23, students in the Honors Program formed four teams. The goal was to create the scariest pumpkin using stickers and markers only. Groups picked their pumpkins and sticker/marker kit. Three Honors Professor, a staff, and an HP student judge (Dr. Alonso-Gallo, Dr. Romano, Dr. Papdakis, Ms. Angela Scott, and Isabella Tusa), judged the scary pumpkins, ranking them from the scariest to least scariest.

## 1st Place

The team shows their scary pumpkin and explain the story behind their design



## 2nd Place

The team smiles and laughs away as they decorate their pumpkin



## 3rd Place

The team works together to add detail and fangs to make the pumpkin scarier



Left to right: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th prized pumpkins were then presented to President Allen, Provost Murray, VP Romano, and Ms. Anoush McNamee



## 4th Place

The team colors vigorously hoping to finish in time

# Life in Miami

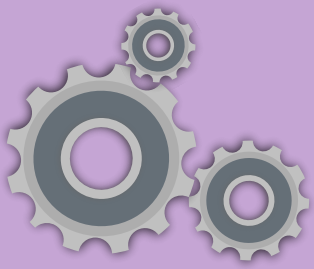
By **Katelyn Billoch**

Oh, Miami. What's the first thing that pops into your head when I say Miami? Do you think about the beautiful beaches and endless palm trees swaying in the breeze? Or what about our famous Hard Rock Stadium and the picturesque Vizcaya Museum and Gardens? To me, Miami is a vibrant and energetic city that embodies the perfect combination of relaxation and excitement. It's a place where you wake up early to buy subs at Publix before you soak up the sun at South Beach, and later enjoy the lively nightlife.

Growing up in Miami, there was always something to do. It was a unique and diverse upbringing compared to what many people are accustomed to. Those who weren't from Miami often saw it as a paradise and a city known for its crazy party life. Throughout high school and now in college, I found myself immersed in a lifestyle where partying was a daily reality for everyone. It was easy to get caught up in the excitement of Miami's party culture, with something happening every night. Reflecting on my experiences, I realized that Miami life had a certain level of drama, but it wasn't until I shared stories with people from other places and different areas that I truly understood how wild and crazy the Miami lifestyle could be. Growing up in Miami was truly an incredible experience because of the amazing landmarks and cultural treasures that surrounded me. There was never a boring day because there was always something to do. One of my absolute favorites is the Hard Rock Stadium where I watched Real Madrid go against their biggest rivals Barcelona, and also where I watched the Post Malone concert. This iconic venue not only hosted thrilling sports events but also concerts that always left a lasting impression on me. It held a special place in my heart, and I have countless memories of cheering on my favorite teams and singing along to my favorite artists there.

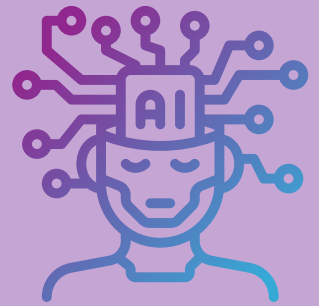
However, what truly makes Miami stand out is its incredible melting pot of cultures. The city's rich diversity is a true reflection of its people, music, and food. Miami is a place where you can savor the mouthwatering flavors of a delicious Cuban sandwich, dance to the infectious beats of salsa and reggaeton, and experience a number of traditions from all over the world. As I reflect on my upbringing in Miami, I'm grateful for the opportunities it has given me to explore and appreciate the different cultures in the world around me. So, if you ever find yourself in Miami, make sure to soak up the sun, embrace the diverse culture, and create your own lasting memories.





# Deepfakes

By Adam Lynch



**The topic of Artificial Intelligence is an increasingly important one in the world today. As developers spend more and more time creating and improving AI systems, their uses and applications continue to expand into more diverse fields of study. However, despite the tremendous promises of AI to completely revolutionize countless industries, there are also some areas of concern which must not be overlooked. One of the central issues surrounds the development of audio and visual “deepfakes,” a method in which AI generates a false image or voice that mimics that of a real person. Many of the videos created with this technology are done so without any ill intent. For example, a deepfake can be created of a little boy’s favorite superhero wishing him a happy birthday by name. In another instance, a viral video comically substituted the face of Jim Carrey onto that of Jack Nicholson in a recreation of the movie The Shining. However, it is easy to see how such a technology can be misused. This innovation has been exploited to create anything from false news reports to pornographic videos. Those running for office, presidential candidates in particular, have been portrayed by deepfakes as giving a statement or performing an action that clearly goes against their beliefs, and would lead to outrage if it were genuine. However, due to their believability, many people end up assuming these false videos are true. For example, during the time when there were many suspicions Trump would be charged for certain actions, there was a deepfake released of his apparent mugshot, insinuating that he had been arrested. This elicited a major reaction from thousands of people who saw the image, until it was deemed to be a fake image and revealed that Trump had not been arrested yet at that time. These examples cover just a few of many ways deepfakes, and AI in general, can pose a threat to the integrity of society. Though AI’s continued growth in society today is inevitable, issues such as deepfakes must be dealt with rather sooner than later.**

The best way to protect against falling victim to deepfakes is to protect your online identity. By using strong, varied passwords and refraining from sharing personal information online unless necessary, you can minimize risk of falling prey to this phenomenon.

-Adam Lynch

# A Land Divided: The Israel-Palestinian Conflict Unraveled

By Kean Alado

The country of Israel was established in May 14, 1948, and was meant to provide the Jews with a home to return to, especially after the end of WWII and Hitler's genocide against the Jews. However, the area at the time was heavily occupied by Middle Easterners who held an Islamic faith, these were the Palestinians. When the British attempted to divide the area to prevent conflict, extremists from the Palestinians were unhappy and believed that Palestine should retain all of the land they had and that Israel owns. This led to war over the territory, to which the British won, and the result was that Israel gained more land than originally planned with the Palestinians being reduced to two territories: the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Particular Palestinians were heavily dissatisfied with the outcome, leading to the formation of an extremist terrorist group called Hamas. This group ended up ruthlessly governing the Gaza Strip and controlling the political force in the region. Israel was involved in skirmishes with the Palestinians for decades, but a large-scale attack by the Palestinian Hamas group began in October 2023. This led to the total blockade by the Israelites to deny the Gaza Strip of food, water, medicine, fuel and electricity. The Hamas group retaliated with increased violence, bombing cities, and killing civilians. Correspondingly, Israel responded with a similar behavior. In the fighting, war crimes were committed by both parties, principally through the slaughtering of civilians. As of October 7, 8,306 Palestinians were killed in Israel attacks, and over 1,400 Israelites were killed in return. This conflict is still active and on November 2, the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza has been hit for the second time by Israel Defense Force (IDF), this airstrike bombed the camp, injuring civilians and leaving many unsheltered. In response, an IDF spokesman indicated that they sent a notice two weeks prior, and therefore, it was the responsibility of the civilians to have already evacuated the zone, in order to allow the IDF to eradicate the Hamas terrorist organization. Ultimately, this region will find no peace until Hamas is eradicated or until Israel is, and the only thing that the rest of the world can do is assist the innocent civilians who are being caught in the crossfire.





# SOCIAL CORNER



INTRODUCING THE HP NEWSLETTER SOCIAL CORNER!

(SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES, SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGING ANNOUNCEMENTS)

"Thank you for the great pumpkin that is now on display in my office. Please pass along my gratitude to the students in the Honors program who were thoughtful enough to share it."

*-Dr. Mike Allen  
BarryU President*

**BARRYU PRESIDENT, DR. MIKE ALLEN, SAYS THANK YOU TO HP STUDENTS FOR THE GIFT EXTENDED TO HIM FROM THE PUMPKIN PAINTING EVENT!**

## 1 HONORS PROGRAM JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA!



@BARRYU\_HONORS



BARRY UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

## 2 HP STUDENT ROOMMATE SELECTION

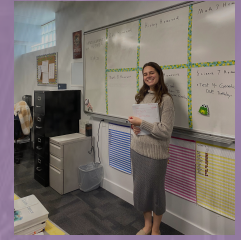
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR HONORS PEERS AS ROOMMATES? WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON BEVILACQUA (AS FIRST-YEAR DORM) AND BENINCASA (AS RETURNERS' DORM) BECOMING DESIGNATED HONORS DORMS? BE SURE TO EMAIL DR. S IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ROOMING WITH YOUR HONORS PEERS!

## 3 THE HONORS LOUNGE

IN NEED OF A QUIET SPACE TO STUDY? OUR HONORS LOUNGE/COMPUTER SPACE IN BEVILACQUA 148 IS READY TO USE. STUDENTS NO LONGER NEED TO MAKE A \$10-CASH DEPOSIT FOR A KEY. CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT WITH BEVILACQUA'S DESK ASSISTANT. HOURS OF OPERATION: DAILY FROM 10:30 AM - 1:30 AM.

# ALUMNI NEWS

By: Anna Galaktionov



Hello everyone!

I'm Anna Galaktionov, a Barry University alumni and a former Honors Program student. I graduated in December 2022 with a Bachelors in Music Education and a Minor in Education.

Not only did I graduate with my degree, but I also gained so much knowledge and experience through the Honors Program. I built relationships with many professors, studied with academic rigor, and participated in community service. I still occasionally recall the gruesome but also valuable experience of writing my Honors Thesis, assisting refugees, and playing my flute at the honors events. Being in the Honors Program was truly a blessed opportunity for me.

Since the time I graduated, many exciting events have happened in my life. To start off, in January, I got hired to be an 8th Grade Homeroom, 7th/8th Grade Math and Science, and 5th-8th Grade Band teacher at a small Christian charter school in Columbus, OH. I definitely have a lot on my plate with this job, but I enjoy it so much! Despite dealing with teenager mood swings, balancing different curriculums, planning engaging lessons, and grading lots of projects, I still love being a teacher! I'm so happy to see my students develop academically, socially, and spiritually and this is what makes my job worthwhile and exciting.

To continue, I also started an online Masters program in Curriculum and Instruction from Barry University in January. Through this program, I'm learning how to develop curriculums and improve my teaching practices. I look forward to someday working for a curriculum development team and writing more practical, engaging, and meaningful curriculums.

Lastly, I got engaged on August 12, 2023! The Lord blessed me with Walter, a God-fearing, handsome, hard-working, honest, hilarious, and just awesome fiancé from Philadelphia! We met on March 12, 2023 in the dessert line at a youth conference in Columbus. Interestingly, we both said "Hi" and started our first conversation on the topic of God's love. Afterwards, we exchanged phone numbers and began talking. We then decided to officially date toward marriage, and now we are engaged, waiting for our wedding day on April 20, 2024, Lord willing! We are so excited to marry soon and become a husband and wife who would glorify God together!

I'm not sure what else life will bring, but in the meantime, these were but a few updates. Stay tuned for more!





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## NOVEMBER EVENT:

### GUEST LECTURE SERIES

**DR. ZACHARIAS PAPADAKIS**  
**SPEAKING ON THE NUTS**  
**AND BOLTS OF**  
**METHDOLOGY**

**DATE: 13TH NOVEMBER,**  
**2023**

**TIME: 12PM-12:50PM**

**LOCATION: WEBER GRAND**  
**HALL**



## DECEMBER

### EVENT:

### HOLIDAY GATHERING

**DATE: 4TH DECEMBER, 2023**

**TIME: 2PM - 3PM**

**LOCATION: WEBER GRAND HALL**

**FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING EVENTS OR**  
**COMMENTS ON WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FROM THE HONORS**  
**PROGRAM, PLEASE REACH OUT AND LET US KNOW!**

