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BARRY UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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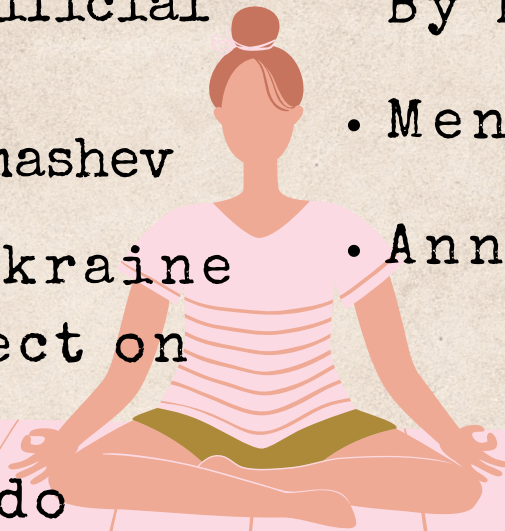


# GRATITUDE



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# Greetings From Our HPSAB Members

## Virginia Rivas

Welcome Back HP Community! I hope everyone had a great summer and is enjoying all that the fall semester brings. Somebody I am grateful for is my younger sister, Viviana. She also goes to Barry and was accepted to the Honors Program last summer. Having her with me in college makes me feel supported and loved as she is always there for me. Any time I have any events on campus, she always shows up for me; and it is something I'm very grateful for.

## Brendalis Puig

Hello everyone, and welcome back to the Honors Program Newsletter. Hopefully, your semester is going well. As we are closer to the middle of this fall semester, give yourself a pat on the back for how far you've come and what you have been able to accomplish so far. Don't forget to stay focused and motivated. I encourage you to always take a moment to appreciate everything that is around you. Life moves so fast that we sometimes forget to appreciate the little things. Something that I am grateful for is being able to continue my education because most days, we take for granted on how lucky we are to be able to continue our education.

## Sean Chin Loy

Hello, future scholars! I'm Sean, a proud member of Barry University's Honors Program Student Advisory Board, and I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all of our incoming students joining the Honors Program family. Congratulations on embarking on this exciting journey of academic excellence and personal growth. As a part of our vibrant and close-knit community, you'll find endless opportunities to challenge yourself, connect with like-minded peers, and contribute to the rich tapestry of knowledge and innovation here at Barry University. We're excited to have you on board, and we can't wait to witness the incredible contributions you'll make during your time with us. So, get ready to embrace new challenges, forge lasting friendships, and unlock your full potential. Welcome to the Honors Program at Barry University – where your academic dreams take flight!

# Meet HPSAB Members



**Brendalis Puig**  
**Chief Editor**



**Sophia Jacquet**  
**Assistant Chair**



**Grace Steffan**  
**Chair**



**Virginia Rivas**  
**Assistant Editor**



**Faiyaz Mahmud**  
**Nirob**  
**1st Year Liaison**



**Sean Chin Loy**  
**Graphic Designer**




**Emilyyanne Eckardt**  
**Co-Editor**



October's Event  
Pumpkin Painting

10/23/2023

12-12:50pm


 LaVoie 113



November's Event  
Guest

Lecture Series

11/13/2023

 12-12:50pm

LaVoie 113



December's Event  
Holiday Gathering



TBA

# ***HP Student Orientation***



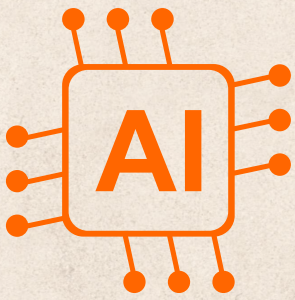
First Year Honors Students



Provost Murray and Vice Provost Romano were among the attendees

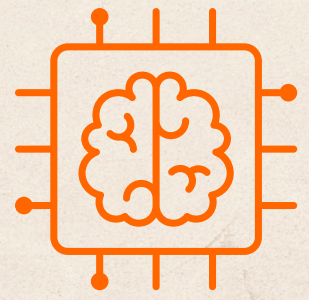


From Left to Right  
Standing : Honors Program students  
Sitting: Drs. Gonzalez, Sirimangkala, Romano, and Papadakis



# The Daily Use of Artificial Intelligence

By Aidar Imashev



Artificial intelligence is comparable to the present age's wizardry. It's the closest we can get to programming machines to think and learn similarly to humans. Imagine a machine that can comprehend what you say, identify your face, and even outplay you at chess. AI for you, then. But AI is changing more than just how we play games or converse with our phones; it is also altering how we live, work, and interact with the outside world.

Consider useful virtual assistants like Alexa or Siri. They listen to your inquiries and respond to you using AI. It's like having a smart friend who is always available for conversation, regardless of the time of day. AI can also assist us in making sense of all the available data. Despite there being billions of web pages, have you ever done a search on the internet and found exactly what you were looking for? Gratitude for AI. It sorts through masses of information to locate the ideal knowledge point for you.

In addition, AI is assisting with disease diagnosis by doctors, self-driving automobiles, and floor-cleaning robots. It is comparable to having a group of dedicated employees that are never weary or incompetent. But it's not all sunshine and roses. Some people are concerned that AI may steal our employment or invade our privacy. They worry that these technologically advanced machines might develop too much intelligence. And while AI has come a long way, it's still not perfect. Sometimes, it can make silly mistakes that leave us scratching our heads.

In the end, AI is a bit like a double-edged sword. It has the potential to make our lives easier, more efficient, and exciting. But it also comes with challenges and questions we need to address. So, while we marvel at what AI can do, let's remember that it's a tool we wield, and how we use it will shape our future. It's a fascinating journey into the world of technology, and we humans are the ones at the helm, guiding AI's course in our ever-evolving world.

**About the Author: Aidar Imashev is a first-year student, with a major in Computer Science.**





# Russia in Ukraine and its effects in the USA

By: Kean Alado

The Ukraine War against the Russians started over a year and a half ago. Throughout the time, the Ukrainians were forced to repel invading Russians who were taking control of Crimea. The Russians followed up this attack with an attack on the mainland which led to multiple NATO partners beginning to place embargos on Russia. This led to many war disasters and tragedies for the defending Ukrainians.

From the tragic helicopter crash at the beginning of the year to the claims of a Russian foreign minister at the UN this month, Ukraine continues to suffer in both direct and indirect ways from the Russian occupation. Ukrainian politicians were in a helicopter to visit a district of Ukraine that the Russians were approaching; however, the helicopter ran into weather issues that caused the crash. This will affect the Ukrainian leadership, especially in such a crucial time and the Russians may take advantage of this which could indirectly lead to more devastating losses for Ukrainians and prolongation of an unresolved conflict.

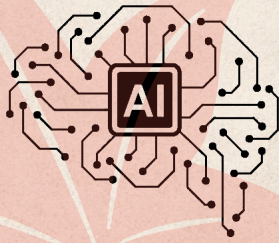


Alternatively, the peace plan that Ukraine proposed at the UN conference was supposedly considered “unfeasible” or “unrealistic”. Additionally, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov claimed that the US and other allies of Ukraine are at war with Russia. This is because, according to Lavrov, the hostilities of Ukraine’s allies are actively engaged against Russia and therefore, Lavrov views them as at war with Russia while using Ukraine as the fodder. This is an alarming accusation because this could indicate tensions rising between the US and Russia which may lead to dreadful consequences for the world and Americans. Since we live in the US, it is very important to monitor the progression of the war and the involvement of the US as it may affect how Americas, Florida, Miami, and the Barry population all continue their lives soon.

## About the Author

Kean Aldo is a second-year undergraduate student. In addition to his major interest in Nursing, he loves to play guitar, sports, and video games.





# Article Analysis

By Isabella Tusa



From the National Association of Colleges and Employers website, I chose an article titled, “Ecology and Artificial Intelligence: Stronger Together” by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. If we think about artificial intelligence (AI) today, it is rare that we would associate it with the ecosystem. This article proves that the integration of artificial intelligence in ecology holds great potential for transforming the field. Currently, ecologists are utilizing AI to analyze large datasets, predict virus spread between animals and humans, and identify ecological patterns. Traditional ecological research often focuses on single-variable comparisons, but AI's capacity to incorporate a variety of data sources can uncover previously unrecognized interactions within ecosystems. AI can learn from how nature adapts and stays strong, which could help solve problems like when computer systems fail. If AI copies the way nature's systems work and how they make decisions, it could become smarter and more flexible.

Also, looking at how nature works could help us understand the strange behaviors of big computer algorithms, like when they make things up. The teamwork between ecology and AI is full of exciting possibilities for both areas of study. This could help us better grasp how ecosystems bounce back from challenges and help us combat climate change. Furthermore, this teamwork promotes social responsibility by combining different knowledge systems and fixing unfair data issues in AI models. Connecting these two areas, which currently have their own unique ways of doing things, different sets of words, and sources of money, is a big challenge. But working together like this has the potential to lead to amazing discoveries that help both ecology and AI.

In conclusion, the combination of AI and ecology promises to advance our knowledge of complex ecosystems, improve AI strength, and promote social inclusivity in research. It is a union that could lead to transformative breakthroughs, offering new ideas that address ecological challenges and can grasp the power of AI.

## About the Author

Isabella Tusa is an Honors Program Senior at Barry University with a major in Advertising and Public Relations. Bella is also a member of the Barry University Women's Beach Volleyball team.

Bella is scheduled to defend her Senior Honors Thesis in December 2023; her thesis research involves Advertising and Artificial Intelligence, an important topic that helped her learn more about AI's capabilities.



# ***Honors Thesis and Research Methodologies***

**By Brendalis Puig, Co-Editor**

As the time for your honors thesis approaches, it is always important to remember that it is never too early to start working on it. Your honor thesis will consist of your own independent research based on a topic selected from your field of study about something you're passionate about. The good news is that you will have guidance because, in your 2nd Honors course, you will get to go through your mock thesis exercises to better prepare you for your actual thesis project. To help you get started, in this article, I will list some of the main concepts for your thesis as well as some research methods.

The first step to starting your thesis is selecting a topic about something you're interested in from your field of study. Keep in mind that you're going to do in-depth research on your topic. Therefore, you should look for a topic that you're genuinely interested in. After you select your topic, start familiarizing yourself with it by doing a literature review on your chosen topic. This will allow you to understand what has already been studied about your topic and will also help you get ready for the next step.

The next step is to start writing your research question or hypothesis. Here is where you state your central question or hypothesis that will address your thesis. You must clearly state what you aim to achieve with your thesis. After you have your research question or hypothesis, it is time for you to begin designing your methodology. Here, you will explain how you will gather or analyze data. The methodology is one of the most critical parts of your thesis. Therefore, you will need to clearly explain how you will gather your data.

I will now tell you some of the most common research methodologies you could use for your thesis. Research methodologies are divided into three categories: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research.



The purpose of a qualitative methodology is to obtain a deeper understanding of concepts of social phenomena, social behavior, and experiences. Some qualitative research methods include one-on-one interviews, focus groups, case studies, ethnography research, and qualitative observation. On the other hand, a quantitative methodology is used to analyze objective measurements and numerical data from the collected data. Examples of quantitative research methods include surveys, experimental research, meta-analysis, and systematic review. Lastly, mixed-methods research consists of combining methods from both a qualitative methodology and a quantitative methodology. For instance, you can do ethnographic research with an interview. The main characteristic to differentiate between the two is that qualitative research can be explained through words, whereas quantitative methodology can be explained through numbers.

Now that you have more knowledge about the steps needed to start your honors thesis, begin your thesis by simply brainstorming about different topics of interest until you find the topic that is perfect for you. Working on research projects, such as your thesis project, presents many researchers with the fantastic opportunity to further their investigation of relevant social phenomena or problems that can result in a valuable and significant contribution to the humanities.

# Mentor List

## Mentor: Dr. Alicea

- Mary Gutelius
- Emilyanne Eckardt
- Chakaria Allen
- Adam Lynch
- Jada Strothers
- Tereza Zavrelová

## Mentor: Dr. Byrne

- Isabella Tusa
- Sean Chin Loy
- William Eich
- Brooke Moeller
- Brendalis Puig
- Sophia Jauquet

## Mentor: Dr. Gonzalez

- Rebecka Mellor
- Adriana Carrera
- Luna Castro
- Aiyanah Commodore
- Viviana Rivas
- Ashley Vega

## Mentor: Dr. Morrell

- Peekay Pete Stoffle
- Domenico Denaro
- Maria Paz
- Sierra Johnson
- Brianne McPhee
- Gavin Pomper
- Adrienne Saunders

## Mentor: Dr. Papadakis

- Wilyn St-Armand
- Kean Alado
- Katelyn Billoch
- Aidar Imashev
- Annalisse Johnson
- David McFadden
- Marie Pierre


## Mentor: Dr. Romano

- Virginia Rivas
- Roberto Campoverde
- Arabella Ford
- Aaliya Gravesande-Singh
- Dasia Hargrove
- Grace Steffan

## Mentor: Ms. A. Scott

- Perpetua Anurugwo
- Rebecca Stevens
- Julene Urkidi
- Saphira Etienne
- Faiyaz Mahmud





## **Azerbaijani Offensive in Nagorno Karabakh in September 2023**

**By Tereza Zavrelova**

On September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive on the separatist Republic of Artsakh (also called the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh). Nagorno Karabakh is a region located in the South Caucasus. It is internationally recognized as a part of Azerbaijan, even though most of the population is Armenian. The area became a dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1918 when both countries gained independence from the Russian Empire. From 1918 to 1920, the Armenia-Azerbaijan War was fought in Nagorno-Karabakh and other areas considered by both countries to be their historical territories. The two countries became a union republic of the Soviet Union in 1920 and, therefore, could not continue the war. Between 1988 and 1994, the first Nagorno-Karabakh war took place. Nagorno-Karabakh voted to join Armenia, which set off the entire conflict. While the peace was negotiated in 1994, the fighting did not ultimately end. The next intense fighting occurred in April 2016. In the fall of 2020, the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War was underway.

Artsakh has been de facto independent since 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but de iure is still considered part of Azerbaijan. This is because none of the sovereign states has officially recognized Nagorno Karabakh. The country has only been recognized as independent by a few other formally unrecognized countries.


The Azerbaijani offensive, which started on September 19, 2023, aimed to restore its sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh. It was paused the next day, and peace negotiations were launched. Following the ceasefire, masses of Armenians began fleeing Nagorno-Karabakh, gathering at the airport in the capital city of Stepanakert, for example. The mass evacuation of civilians from Karabakh did not start until September 24. On the first day, about 1,050 refugees arrived in Armenia through the border crossing in Kornidzor.

On Wednesday, September 27, the number of those leaving Nagorno-Karabakh was close to 54,000, according to Armenpress. A day later, it was more than 70,000, and on the 2nd of October, it was more than 100,500 refugees, which is more than 80% of the population of Nagorno Karabakh. President Samvel Shahramanyan signed a decree abolishing all state institutions by January 1, 2024. The Artsakh Republic will then cease to exist.

The Red Cross, for example, is assisting in the area, and many countries have condemned the Azerbaijan offensive.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in September 2023 and the expected dissolution of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh in January 2024 are only the results of a long-running dispute.

*About the Author: Tereza Zavrelova is first-year undergraduate student, with a major in International Studies.*





# Announcements



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. More to come on how to access the Honors Lounge!



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?



Don't forget!  
Honors Priority Registration starts 10/25/2023.



Be sure to reach out to your Honors Mentors (see pg. 10 to find out who your mentor is).

