

SOCIAL JUSTICE

THE HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10 Issue 1

Fall 2021



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Greetings from HP Director

Greetings!

This first Fall 2021 issue of the Honors Program's (HP) newsletter marks a very special academic year for all of us. Barry University is now back in-person, after the start of the remote learning in mid-March of 2020. This year's Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB) is home to a group of five student leaders; and despite their busy class and work schedule, HPSAB is committed to serving and building a strong HP community. I commend HPSAB for its leadership and diligence that made quality programming possible. Among HPSAB's accomplishments include holding two successful events and meeting with Dean Ismare Monreal, Dean of Students (see pg. 4 about some of the collaborative efforts between HP and Dean Monreal's office). At the annual Student Orientation, we also had the best in-person turnout.

A deep appreciation goes to the faculty, staff, and all guests who spent their afternoon with us. This term's first social event (Pumpkin Carving) also turned out to be a great teambuilding experience among the three teams who competed for top prizes. Those who participated went home with BU t-shirts, contest prizes, and artistic pride. Read more about the events on pp. 11 & 12.

As we continue to reimagine life, almost two years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope we all remain resolute in living in the present and turning every challenge into an opportunity for growth. In response to National Collegiate Honors Council's (NCHC) call for universities and students to reimagine Honors, I encourage each HP student to reimagine your own Honors identities, whether it is to contemplate on your genuine purpose in life, cultivate friendships, give back, and lend a helping hand. A good starting point is to reflect on how you live your Barry life through Barry University's core commitments. For new students, if you have not already done so, I encourage you to start your life journey, driven by these core commitments. For every HP student, ask yourself a series of knowledge and truth questions (e.g., what do I need to know and do to be a global citizen?). Embrace the in-person experience that we longed for, after the 22-month in remote. Limit your screen time. Spend real time, interacting with fellow humans and exchanging human stories. On and off screen, be kind to one another. Before you know it, you will join the growing group of successful HP alumni, living the Barry's Core Commitments in living their own lives (see pg. 6 for this issue's HP Alumni News).

To our HP faculty, thank you for your important roles as you continue to challenge and prepare our students for their future. I thank all key individuals in Admissions, Financial Aid, and the Registrar's in their HP-related efforts. Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the university leadership for its strongest support for the Honors Program. To all HP alumni, thanks for always keeping in touch and continuing to make a difference!

Yours truly,

Dr. Pawena Sirimangkala

Greetings from HPSAB Co-Chair

"Hello all! I hope this finds you well. It has been a tumultuous year and a half, to say the least. Many have suffered hardship and tragedy. My heartfelt sympathies go out to all those who have struggled amidst the upheaval of what seems to be our new reality. I would also like to thank all of you. Even more than the tragedy, this past year, and this past semester in particular, have shown me the strength we have as a community here at Barry and within the Honors Program. You have all worked tirelessly for the betterment of yourselves and your community and I could not be more proud to call you my friends and peers. This is what I will reflect on as the semester comes to a close and over the coming summer, and it will continue to inspire me. Thank you.

Best,

Walter MacWaters, HPSAB Co-Chair

Meet Your HPSAB Members



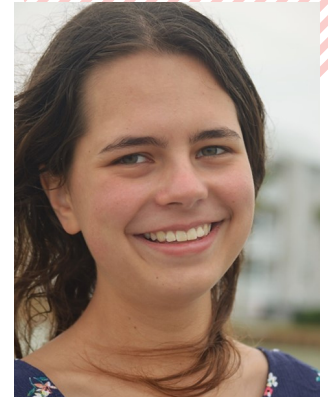
MS. BRIANNA LOPEZ

Position: Co-Chair
Major: English



**MR. WALTER
MACWATERS**

Position: Co-Chair
Double Major:
Political Science and Philosophy



**MS. ANNA
GALAKTIONOV**

Position: Writer and Researcher
Major: Music



MS. SHANIEYA HARRIS

Position: Co-Editor, Honors Program
Newsletter
Major: Spanish (Spanish Language and
Literature)



MS. MIA TUBBS

Position: Co-Editor, Honors Program
Newsletter
Major: Spanish (Spanish Translation and
Interpretation)



MS. JENNIE IUDICE

Position: Secretary
Major: Social Work

New IDs and Gathering Space for Honors Students

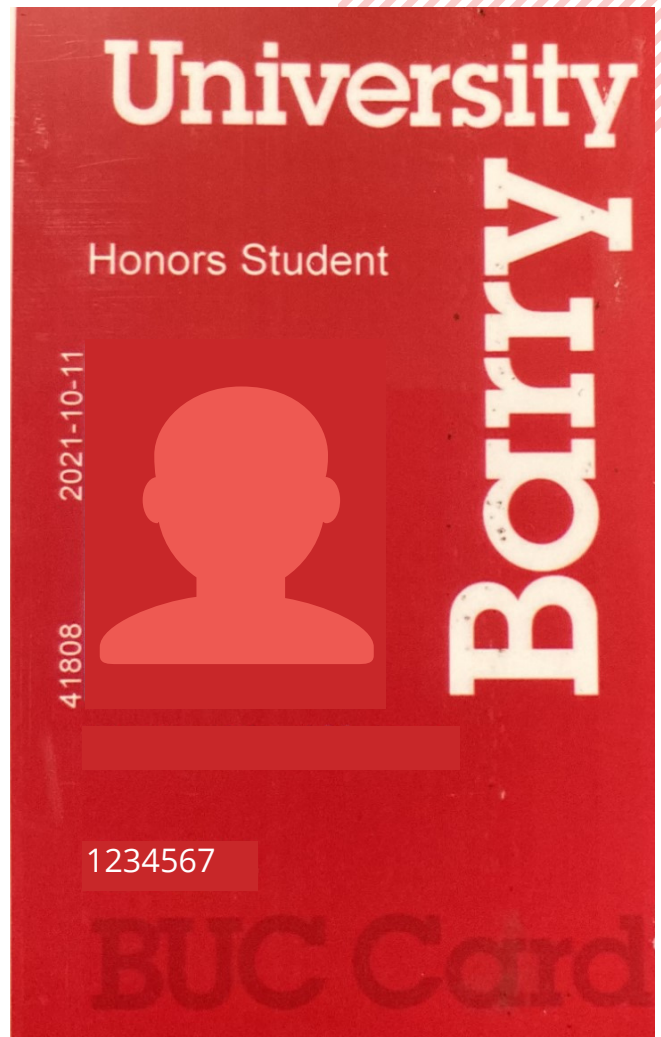
Dean Ismare Monreal (Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Mission and Student Engagement) accepted HPSAB's invitation to attend HPSAB's meeting on October 18th, 2021. At the meeting, Dean Monreal expressed her strong interest to collaborate with HPSAB. Several great ideas were generated, including a potential future Honors floor in a residential hall, assigning a Student Life staff member to help HPSAB pursue its goals (e.g., bringing back the car washing, reserving vans). Dean Monreal also encouraged HPSAB to apply for an HP students club. Two items that Dean Monreal has already made it possible for HP students were designing a new BU ID card for all HP students and designating Bevilacqua Hall, Suite 148 as HP's new gathering space/computer lab, opening date TBA). We are grateful for Dean Monreal's generous offer to fund our new HP t-shirts. Thank you, Dean Monreal and HPSAB looks forward to further our collaboration with your office!



**HP Students' new Gathering Space/Computer Lab
Bevilacqua Hall, Ste 148**

Fellow honors students, please stop by Landon Student Union to get your new Honors ID! These new IDs will allow you to show off to everyone that you are a hardworking honors student! The IDs are free of charge. Go head on over and get your Honors ID!

Get Yours at Landon Student Union!



A Big Thank You to Dean Monreal



HPSAB Co-Chair, Brianna Lopez: I'd say that everyone in HPSAB was excited to meet with Dean Monreal, who gave us a lot to think about as far as how her office can help better the program, and we are excited to continue building our relationship with her.

HPSAB Co-Chair, Walter MacWaters: I was encouraged to hear Dean Monreal listen and respond so receptively to our ideas, and I look forward to working with her office in the future. I think building working relationships with offices on campus like hers is one of the things that will take the Honors Program to the next level as a student organization.

HPSAB Co-Editor, Mia Tubbs: It was extremely motivating to meet with Dean Monreal. She was very kind and wanted to know what she could do to help us and let us know that she is very proud of the work we are doing. That made me feel heard and appreciated.

Alumni Spotlight

See how well our HP alumni are doing.
Congratulations, Kevin & Vincent!



Kevin Dalia graduated from the Honors Program and Barry University in Spring 2017 and went to law school immediately afterwards. In 2020, he obtained his law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law. Kevin is an Associate Attorney at Greenbridge Corporate Counsel and Horst Legal Counsel. He is specialized in the cannabis industry doing corporate compliance and regulatory compliance. Kevin primarily works on research and contract drafting, but has also done work in litigation. Kevin regularly takes on pro bono clients compliant with cannabis equity programs throughout California and volunteers at an expungement clinic every month. It's fair to say that Kevin loves it in California!



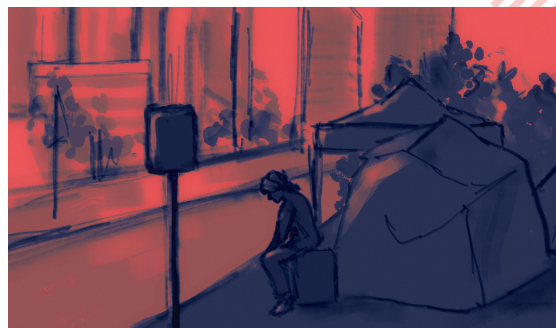
Vincent Silvanio graduated from the Honors Program and Barry University in May 2017. Like many of his former HP peers, he went to graduate school. In May 2020, he obtained his law degree from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. He has stayed true to his Italian American identity and his Senior Honors Thesis topic. While at Villanova Law, he served as the President of the Justinian Society and the Alumni Chair of the Sports Law Society. Vincent took the NJ Bar Exam in October of 2020, the PA Bar Exam in February of 2021, and the NY Bar Exam in June of 2021. He is now a licensed attorney in NJ, PA, and NY.

Vincent is currently an Associate at Brown & Connery, LLP, a mid-size law firm in South Jersey. He specializes in labor & employment defense work, as well as complex commercial litigation.

Tackling California's Housing Crisis

By: Heaven Laster-Torres

The best thing about living in California is experiencing its biodiversity. Home to the tallest trees in the world, the redwoods, and the national parks with the most beautiful scenery, California is easily the most biodiverse state in the U.S. This richness spans from the coast to the mountains, in cities and on farms and vineyards, and throughout the valleys and deserts. That being said, all of this comes at a hefty price. The medium home price in California has eclipsed to over \$800,000. Each night more than 100,000 residents sleep outside or in their cars. The issue is supply and demand. There is not enough supplies to build houses to accommodate the increasing population. This is heavily due to the forest fires that have been ravaging the state, getting worse each year. A crisis, a disaster, a disgrace — whatever journalists and politicians call it, people across the state agree that the situation is untenable. Last month, we voted on the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom, who has been trying to tackle this housing crisis since 2019. The question is what, if anything, can Gov. Newsom do to mend this disaster (Dougherty 2021)? Recently, he has passed historical legislation to tackle the housing crisis in our state called the California Comeback Plan. Senate Bill 8 is an extension of the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 to jumpstart more housing production. Senate Bill 9 will allow most homeowners to build two homes or a duplex on a plot zoned for a single house, and in some cases, split their lot and build two additional homes, starting on January 1st, 2021. The total number of units on a single lot is limited to four. It is entirely up to eligible homeowners to turn their homes into duplexes or fourplexes, meaning that there will be little impact overall. Additionally, the law doesn't put a limit on the unit prices, which doesn't help the cost of living. (Tobias 2021). Senate Bill 10 creates a voluntary, effective process for cities to zone for multi-unit housing. This will make it easier and faster to construct housing. These bills additionally help address the linked issues of climate change and housing affordability by encouraging denser housing closer to major employment hubs. This will be a vital part in limiting California's greenhouse gas emissions (2021). "The housing affordability crisis is undermining the California Dream for families across the state, and threatens our long-term growth and prosperity," said Governor Newsom. "Making a meaningful impact on this crisis will take bold investments, strong collaboration across sectors, and political courage from our leaders and communities to do the right thing and build housing for all. I thank Pro Tem Atkins and all the Legislature's leaders on housing for their vision and partnership to keep California moving forward on this fundamental issue" (2019). The California Comeback Plan invests an astonishing \$22 billion in housing and homelessness. This will result in the creation of over 84,000 new affordable homes for Californians, including over 44,000 new housing units and treatment beds for people exiting homelessness. This plan marks the most significant investment in housing in California's history with \$10.3 billion proposed for housing and over \$12 billion for the unhoused. California has brushed the housing crisis under the rug for much too long, and these bills are way overdue (2021). Hopefully, progress will be made as quickly as possible, and more people will have a place to call home.



Honorary Mention

by **Moe Marvins**

Hello everyone! My name is Moe Mavins, I am from Woodbridge VA, and I am a freshman here at Barry University majoring in Biology. I choose to attend Barry University not only for the fact that I was accepted into the Honors Program, but because I valued the small student to teacher ratio that Barry has. Since I went to a very large public high school, I never had close relationships with any of my teachers as classrooms typically had 25+ students. So, I wanted to make sure that I have this close relationship with my teachers as I pursued into my undergraduate studies. Moreover, the diversity that Barry University has is unparalleled to other universities. Growing up in an area where diversity flourished, I wanted to continue to surround myself with people of different backgrounds when I attended university. I find it very important for myself and everyone else to surround themselves with people of different nationalities and cultures as it grants you the ability to learn about these new cultures and gives you a unique perspective of different lifestyles.

Through being a part of the Honors program, I look forward to pushing myself to my limits and further developing my understanding of a variety of different subjects. As I am looking to apply to PA school during my senior year, I hope that being a part of the HP will also help me stand out amongst other applicants. During this fall semester, I took the Judeo-Christian doctrine course taught by Dr. Erwin. Although the class was quite abstract and complex, Dr. Erwin made the class very interesting and his profound knowledge of the subject made these very difficult ideas much easier to comprehend. Also, since the class was only made up of other HP students, it felt really refreshing to work with other like-minded individuals who also share a passion for their studies.

When I am not doing school work, I enjoy swimming and volunteering around my community. Back home, I have been volunteering at a local SPCA for the past 2 ½ years. At the SPCA, I help walk the adoptable dogs and help customers during the adoption process. In high school, I swam for the school team during my first 3 years, so whenever I get a chance I always like to take a dip in the community pool. I've had an incredible first semester here at BarryU and I am excited to see what next semester brings!

Notes from the Co-Editors: Moe Mavins chose Barry University to begin his college journey. Due to family related situations, Moe transferred back home to Virginia. Thanks, Moe for sending in your piece. We miss you!

13th Annual STEM Symposium

Five Honors Program students presented at this year's S.T.E.M. Research Symposium, held on April 9, 2021. The symposium was aimed at engaging the Barry community in learning about and sharing in the excitement of ongoing discoveries and research within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.), Humanities and Social Sciences.

An investigation of potential correlations between vaccine safety profiles and recipient characteristics/pre-existing conditions

Taylor Checkley and Stephanie Bingham (Department of Biology, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL)

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, information surrounding treatment of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is constantly evolving. Currently, the leading COVID-19 vaccines, created by Moderna and Pfizer, have been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and are being administered throughout the US. A third vaccine, this time from the manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, is on the brink of approval as well. While both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been confirmed to have at least 94% efficacy, a limited number of reports have outlined the possible benefits and disadvantages of taking a particular company's vaccine for specific groups of people, such as those of different ages, and those with particular medical conditions. This research will compile data derived from trials and databases to identify trends of the effects that each vaccine has had on individuals with different profiles. An understanding of whether there is a correlation between specific conditions and a higher likelihood of adverse events with one vaccine vs. another can help to inform individuals and healthcare providers. For example, it can suggest whether it is safe to administer either of the two approved vaccines regardless of the specific health circumstances of the recipients or if they would be better served receiving one over the other. This analysis is important because it will provide information that will increase the chances that individuals receive the vaccine that best meets their specific needs while limiting potentially harmful side effects.

A literature review on effect of humans on the spread of zoological diseases

Erica Cruz (Honors Program, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL)

In light of recent events, speculation on the spread of diseases has become very prevalent in everyday society. It has been shown that the things that were previously theorized to have the potential to start a worldwide pandemic, can very much become a reality as shown through the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world. Humans are imposing on the environment to a degree where a lot of consequences are starting to take place. They have imposed on animal territory through deforestation which has resulted in the spread of many infectious diseases throughout the world. It has been shown that humankind's influence on ecosystems has allowed for crossing points where there is the potential for new zoonotic diseases to spread on a local and global level. Of the 335 emerging infection diseases recognized from 1940 to 2004, more than 60% have been from zoonotic animals. This paper attempts to examine current literature on look at different articles that talk about the actions that humans have taken that make it easier and more efficient for infectious diseases to spread with an emphasis on Coronaviruses. It will make a systematic review of recent research regarding humans and the methods in which they have exacerbated the spread of different zoonotic diseases with an emphasis on deforestation, human population growth and urbanization.

How academic identity is linked to first-year students' ability to effectively write academic discourse

Brianna Lopez (Honors Program, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL)

In a 2018 study, Kevin Cheung examines the authorial identity of student academic writers. A psychology student he studies, Naomi, asks: Am I an author or do I just write papers? Is that an author? (Cheung, p. 1477). Naomi's question accurately conveys the difficulty of first-year students to develop an academic identity and their uptake of written academic discourse. This struggle is especially prevalent in the time of synchronous participation in virtual instruction, where students may not apply themselves to their coursework as much as they would in in-person environments. First-year English courses aim to teach students composition skills that are necessary in their college career. Depending on students' various degrees of identification as academics, and therefore the degree to which they apply themselves in developing composition skills, the academic papers they write in their college years may fall below the standards of an average first-year English professor. As first-year English professors are some of the first teachers of academic discourse that first-year students will have, guiding students in first-year English is crucial to helping students develop an academic identity. This research examines composition techniques and mentalities that can be taught to encourage students to identify as academics, specifically aiming to discover techniques that will prove effective in a synchronous virtual instruction space. The frameworks and guiding ideas which will be used in the study are the concept of students finding themselves within the academic text they write (Bartholomae), the need for change in the power dynamic amongst professors and students in order for students to write better academically (Elbow), and the concept of identification as it applies to students identifying within an academic setting (Burke). This study hopes to demonstrate a need for change in the first-year English course and design a new course which will afford students and professors the opportunity to practice identification in an academic environment. In developing the confidence to identify themselves as aspiring experts in academia, students will undoubtedly be able to put their academic writing skills into practice, joining the realm of composers of academic writing and boosting their college-level writing skills.

13th Annual STEM Symposium Continued

Five Honors Program students presented at this year's S.T.E.M. Research Symposium, held on April 9, 2021. The symposium was aimed at engaging the Barry community in learning about and sharing in the excitement of ongoing discoveries and research within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.), Humanities and Social Sciences.

The right to privacy in a modern America


Walter MacWaters (Honors Program, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL)

The right to privacy is one of the most crucial and fundamental protections that is afforded to the citizens of the United States of America. Defining the legal right to privacy, then, is paramount. I hold that it means the right of an individual or group to act without scrutiny or regulation from any governing body or outside individual unless they are reasonably suspected of committing a crime or acting in a setting where there can be no reasonable expectation of privacy. Simply put, I believe the right to privacy to be the right of a person to be left well enough alone. This right has been gradually diminished and infringed upon throughout our nation's history as the Government has appropriated more power, but never has it been so quickly eroded as the advent of the computer age. More and more, especially during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, social media platforms have taken the place of the public square becoming vital aspects of maintaining communication when face-to-face interaction fell out of favor. This clearly must have an impact on the meaning and value of privacy. Legislation, however, always lags behind technological progress and people have been subjected to largely unregulated media censorship and datamining by giant tech corporations. In this project, I will explore the legal meaning of the right to privacy, its origins, and its potential future in order to answer the following questions. What is the legal right to privacy and what does it cover? Can a person reasonably expect privacy online, particularly on privately owned media platforms? If so, in what ways if any does the legal definition need to be updated in order to ensure our rights are protected? And finally, what can be done to avoid further infringement on the right to privacy as technology continues to develop?

The neglected bridge between the medical community and essential workers

Anaya Ruiz (Honors Program, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL)

During the pandemic, the need for essential workers has dramatically increased. When most people think of essential workers, they tend to think about nurses and doctors. This paper advocates for the other groups of essential workers (e.g., sanitation workers, meat packaging workers, grocery store clerks, garbage workers, cleaners, warehouse workers, and bus drivers). These everyday essential workers are needed to have a functioning society. Many of these workers are often people of color. Prior to the pandemic, these workers were essential for society, yet they were also overworked, underpaid, under protected, and underappreciated (Rho, 3). People of color are overrepresented in most occupations within the frontline industries. While this is common knowledge for members within the medical community, there appears to be a disconnect between the doctors and essential workers as patients. Medical personnel have many obligations and duties, and their lives are often centered around their daily routines. This paper argues that inquiry related to racial equality when receiving proper medical treatment becomes part of the medical personnel's daily routines (e.g., during the patient interview, diagnostic interview, or medical examination). Furthermore, the paper argues that the essential workers stories (about their medical visit and treatment experiences) are told so that their voices are no longer the neglected voices. These stories will act as a bridge between essential workers and the medical community. The goal of this research is to also encourage the medical community to advocate for these essential workers. Finally, the paper will propose multiple solutions to improve the overall well-being of the essential workers (e.g., proposing a sector within the medical community to act as an advocate to the essential workers within the hospital setting, mandated governmental policy to regulate fair treatment to essential workers, and other policy changes within hospitals).



Honors Program Orientation 2021

by **Rebeca Miranda**

The Fall 2021 Honors Student Orientation was held on October 6th. I was fortunate to have been able to attend this meeting, at which both important faculty and students were present. The Provost, Assoc. Provost for Student Success and Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Students, HP faculty, and HPSAB of Barry University attended the meeting located in Lavoie 113.

At the meeting, students not only had the chance to meet and interact with important faculty, but also received invaluable information regarding our HP roles/requirements and upcoming opportunities to serve. After hearing from the Honors Program Student Advisory Board (HPSAB) on their vision for the monthly newsletter, several of its members had the students and faculty present play a couple of interactive games together. Said games provided those present with the opportunity to get to know each other better, whilst generating a safe and open space for engagement, cooperation, and growth!

After the meeting was concluded, Dr. Sirimangkala, whom we'd had a chance to hear from earlier regarding her goals for the program, directed everyone outside, where we took a group picture.

I can say, with all honesty, that I gained a great deal from attending this year's orientation. As a transfer student, I could not have felt more welcomed. In the future, I hope that many more students, both incoming freshmen and transfers, are able to join the program, and form part of this prestigious group of individuals that works diligently each day, in both their coursework and extracurricular activities, to provide program constituents with intellectual and creative service opportunities. I hope you are as excited as I am to see what the rest of this year has in store for our program!



HP Community Playing Houses and Bunnies



Dr. John Murray, Provost, shared his HP vision with us



Barry University Leadership, HP Faculty and Students

Narrative Images from the Oct. 25th Pumpkin Carving Competition Event



Cassie preparing her team's pumpkin



Bella, Cassie, & Anaya



The judges: Jennie, Britania, Dr. S, Walter (see Dr. Bingham in group picture)



Walter giving crit to the first group



The 3rd runner up: Andres, Kendall, & Rebecca



Judges evaluated Group 2's carved pumpkin (Andre, Rebecka & Kendall)



First Prize winners: Shameya, Dylan, and friends



Five judges and the winners (with their winning designed pumpkins and prizes).



Group One's members finishing up their work



Second Prize Winners: Anaya, Cassie, & Bella



Judges carefully assessed the artistic expression from Cassie, Anaya, & Bella's group

HP Upcoming Event

Guided Field Trip to Fairchile Tropical Botanic Garden



Please mark your calendar for an upcoming optional HP Event on Sat. Dec 4th. This year we are doing things slightly different for the Fall's Guest Lecture Series (GLS). In consultation with HPSAB, this Fall's GLS will be an in-person guided field trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. This field trip is consistent with our HP traditional Fall GLS response to themes related to the environment.

For this event, there is a strict deadline to RSVP. Please reserve your seat no later than Nov. 19. Due to all pre-field trip arrangements, only RSVPs received by the deadline will include one garden admission, fee for the guided field trip, face mask, and lunch box. Carpooling information from campus and HPSAB's event flyer with all details are forthcoming! If you need transportation, please indicate in your RSVP email to Dr. S # psirimangkala@barry.edu

HP students, this event counts towards one of your HP optional events. Please keep in mind that each term, you are required to attend one mandatory and two choices of HP optional events. This Fall's remaining optional events are the **holiday party and field trip.**

Other Barry Events

NOVEMBER 6-14

2021 Founders' Week

Barry University  Learn • Reflect • Serve



JOIN  **BUConnect** TODAY!
Barry University Alumni Network

Adrian Dominican Institute
for **Mission** and **Leadership**

The Buccaneer and Department of Communication *present*

STAY WOKE

Speech and Debate Competition

CONTEST FINALS: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 | David Brinkley Studio
PRELIMINARIES/AUDITIONS: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26
Register with Professor Tiffani Knowles at tknowles@barry.edu.

Founders' Week | SAVE THE DATE
COMMUNITY FEST
ROARING TWENTIES

FOOD | GAMES | GIVE-AWAYS
NOV. 12 | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM | CAMPUS MALL
Barry University | Learn • Reflect • Serve