

HONORS PROGRAM



A MORE PERFECT UNION.

Creating and Restoring Community in An Age of Disruption

2022



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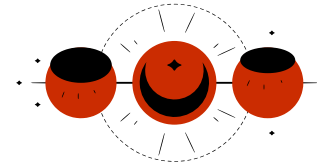
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GREETINGS GREETINGS GREETINGS

Dear HP Community, Barry faculty, and all readers,

On behalf of the Honors Program Newsletter editors, I am happy to present to you another issue of the HP newsletter. The editors have worked tirelessly to get this issue out, and I am confident in saying that it is a great one. Over my time on HPSAB, I have watched the HP newsletter grow and expand, and that has always been due to the wonderful work the editors have done. I am proud to have been in HPSAB during my time at Barry. As much as these are greetings, they are also, in some ways, a farewell to you—the HP community, the staff, the students, the faculty. As I prepare to graduate in the coming weeks, I look back on my time with the Honors Program and HPSAB and I smile. I know that the classes I have participated in, the books I have read, and the professors I have spoken to will remain a part of me well beyond my time at Barry. The invaluable insights that I have gained will stay with me into my career, reminding me of my ability to connect and bloom into something beautiful. It has been an absolute honor to be a part of the Honors Program, and I hope (and know) that the students who come after me will share these same sentiments. Thank you, HP community—for everything you have given me, and for reading this newsletter.

Brianna Lopez

“Hello all! My, how time flies. I will be graduating this May, and it feels like just yesterday that I first stepped on campus for orientation. But, looking back, I have done so much since then. I have led HPSAB, finished two majors, written dozens of papers, lost hundreds of hours of sleep, and lifted thousands of pounds of weights to relieve the stress. Facing it all, everything I have achieved and attempted, I feel grateful. It might be more natural to feel pride, but really I just feel profound gratitude: for my family, my friends, my professors, my peers, and for all the opportunities I’ve had to learn, grow, and succeed. If there is one thing I can recommend, it would be to look around and be grateful for everything around you – positive or negative – that is pushing you to fulfill your highest potential. There is almost nothing more beautiful than that, I think. Thank you.”

Walter MacWaters

HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD



WALTER MACWATERS, CO-CHAIR



BRIANNA LOPEZ, CO-CHAIR



SHANIEYA HARRIS, SENIOR EDITOR



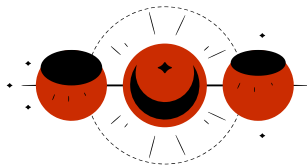
JENNIE IUDICE, SECRETARY



ALYSSA DIAZ, JOURNALISM EDITOR



REBECA MIRANDA, ASSOCIATE EDITOR



STUDY ABROAD SPAIN



Hi, everyone! I am a co-editor of the HPSAB newsletter, but I have been taking a leave of absence because I have been studying abroad in Seville, Spain this semester! It has been a good experience so far. With my study abroad program, you have the option to take courses at the current University of Seville as well as courses with your sponsoring university. I decided to challenge myself and take most of my courses at the University of Seville. I wanted to be fully immersed in the culture and the lives of other students. However, the classes at the university that are available are only for other international students. At first, I was a little disappointed about that, considering I expected to be mingling with locals and be friends with actual Sevillanos. Nonetheless, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that even though the majority of the students are from the United States, there are also students from Germany and Korea. Despite the fact that we are all international students in the classes, the teachers continue to speak in complete Spanish, which is fantastic. It has really helped my Spanish improve immensely. Another aspect of my abroad experience that has helped my Spanish as well, is living with a host family. My host parents are very nice people, and my housemate and I eat lunch and dinner with them every day and watch the news. My host parents speak little to no English, so it has been great to actually be forced to communicate in another language on a daily basis. My host mother is a great cook and makes typical Spanish dishes like tortilla de patatas, a Spanish omelet with potatoes. Seville has a very rich historical aspect, just like all of Spain or even Europe. I was able to visit the Real Alcazar, where there was a room that was said to be where Christopher Columbus allegedly signed the paperwork to embark on his first voyage to the Americas. I was able to see that Columbus is still a big deal here, with statues on almost every corner. At first, it was a little difficult to adjust to the six-hour time difference and the times of eating; Spaniards eat their biggest meals at lunch time and dinner at 9:30-10:00 pm, which is very small. But now this experience has shown me that we, as human beings, can adapt to anything! Although I do miss my family and friends, this is a great experience for my career. I really hope that everyone chooses to study abroad if they have the opportunity. We often get so stuck in the daily routine of life that we forget that there is life outside of our small bubbles. Pop that bubble and get out there and see the world! - Mia Tubbs

FIND YOUR HONORS PROGRAM MENTOR

Dr. J. Gonzalez (Faculty Mentor)

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- Galaktionov, Anna (Musical Harmonies and Emotions)
- Miranda, Rebeca (Musical Instruction in Public School)
- Mellor, Rebecka (Virtual Learning, Isolation, Need for Connection Among Young Students During the Pandemic)

Dr. L. Byrne (Faculty Mentor)

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- Diaz, Alyssa (Examining the Effects of Social Media among Women)
- Tusa, Isabella (How do Media Outlets Cover the Same News Issue)
- Harris, Shanieya (Linguistic Literacies & Language Acquisition in the US)
- Tubbs, Mia (Language Barriers and Prison Treatment)

Dr. M. Alicea (Faculty Mentor)

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- Michel, Winkler (Law and psychology)
- Iudice, Jennie (Modern Slavery: Conditions and Mistreatment of Migrant Workers)
- Bosch, Jessica (Research Topic TBD)
- Dumornay, Ann-Stacey (Suicide among veterans)

Dr. S. Morrell (Faculty Mentor)

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- Lee, Cassandra (The Financial Analysis of the Funding of Sports Stadium on Communal Prosperity)
- Jaramillo, Andres (Financial Literacy)
- Stoffle, Peekay (Online Retail & Augmented Reality: Case Study on athletic wear/equipment companies shifting to online retail post-COVID-19 pandemic)
- Bennetti, Anthony (Marketing Finance and Small Business)
- Crosby, Keiyanza (Tax Evasion)

AND CONNECT!

Dr. S. Pottratz (Faculty Mentor)

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- Young, Suzannah (Social Media, Sexism, and Its Effects on Women)
- Lentz, Nicole (The Effects Social Media: Photography on the Psychological State of Producers/Users)
- Rivas, Virginia (Healthcare Disparities among members of the LGBT community or The Mental Health of Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic)
- St-Armand, Wilyn (Privacy and Security as It Pertains to Web 3.0)

Dr. V. Romano (Faculty Mentor)

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- Benton, Sky (Assessment Tools, Quality Programming, and Proper Funding in Juvenile Centers)

Dr. P. Sirimangkala (Faculty Mentor)

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- Laster-Torres, Heaven (Letting the Science Speak: What the Science Community Learned about Pandemics through COVID-19)
- Johnson, Donovan (Research Topic TBD)
- Hovius, Kendall (The Effect of Public Opinion on Conservation Effort: Sharks as a Case Study)
- Forcano, Ignasi (Comparison between Big and Small Tennis Academies)
- Lopez, Brianna (How Academic Identity is Linked to First-Year Students' Ability to Effectively Write Academic Discourse)
- MacWaters, Walter (The Right to Privacy in the Information Age)

HPC-HP MENTORING

FIND YOUR BUDDY!

Shanieya H. (Peer Mentor)

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- Alyssa Diaz
- Rebecka Mellor
- Andres Jaramillo
- Cassandra Lee

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- Peekay Stoffle
- Suzannah Young
- Kendall Hovius

Brianna L. (Peer Mentor)

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- Heaven Laster-Torres
- Sky Benton
- Ignasi Forcano

BUDDY



AND CONNECT!

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- Anthony Bennetti
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Mia T. (Peer Mentor)

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- Michel Winkler
- Ann-Stacey Dumornay
- Wilyn St-Armand
- Dylan Rodriguez

SYSTEM



PUPFISH

BY KENDALL HOVIUS

HOW MANY INDIVIDUAL FISH DO YOU THINK ARE ALIVE CURRENTLY IN THE RAREST FISH SPECIES? PERHAPS 1,000, MAYBE EVEN 500, OR 250 IF YOU FEEL LIKE GOING LOWER? HOW MANY WOULD SUSPECT THE NUMBER TO BE EVEN LESS THAN THAT? IN ACTUALITY, THE RAREST SPECIES OF FISH IS THE DEVIL'S HOLE PUPFISH, OR CYPRINODON DIABOLIS, THIS SPECIES ONLY HAS AROUND 100 SURVIVING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. IT LIVES IN ONLY ONE AREA, THE DEVIL'S HOLE, LOCATED IN THE LEAST LIKELY PLACE TO FIND A FISH, DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. KNOWN AS THE HOTTEST DESERT IN THE WORLD, THIS DESOLATE AND DRY AREA HOLDS A SINGLE AQUIFER THAT CONTAINS MANY SPECIES OF PUPFISH, SOME OF THE RAREST IN THE WORLD, AND THE RAREST OVERALL.

A BRILLIANT BLUE, BUT BARELY AN INCH LONG, THE DEVIL'S HOLE PUPFISH REQUIRE VERY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS TO SURVIVE THEIR SHORT, YEARLONG LIFESPAN, WITH ANY ATTEMPTS TO RAISE THEM IN AQUARIUMS FAILING. THEY LIVE IN WATER YOU'D WANT TO BATHE IN, AN AVERAGE OF 92 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, BUT CAN OCCASIONALLY REACH 108 DEGREES. IT IS ALSO INCREDIBLY SALTY, MUCH MORE THAN EVEN THE OCEAN. IN ONE 500-FOOT-DEEP PIT THAT HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY EXPLORED, THEY ARE LOCATED ON A SINGLE LEDGE. ATTEMPTS TO BREED THESE FISH HAVE ALSO FAILED, OR ANY ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE THEIR PLATFORM. TWICE EACH YEAR THIS SPECIES IS COUNTED, WITH MANY DIVERS ENTERING THE DEPTHS. IN 1967 THEY WERE DECLARED ENDANGERED, AND HAVE BEEN DECLINING EVER SINCE, WHICH AT ONE POINT LEFT THEM WITH ONLY 35 SURVIVING MEMBERS, THOUGH THEIR NUMBERS HAVE RECOVERED SINCE THEN.

THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THIS SPECIES ALIVE IS THROUGH PROTECTING NATIONAL PARKS AND PREVENTING WATER POLLUTION. URBAN DEVELOPMENT IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO THEIR WELLBEING AND CONTINUES TO BE SO. CAMPAIGNING FOR STRICT REGULATIONS AGAINST GROUNDWATER PUMPING WILL HELP PROTECT THIS SPECIES, AND MANY OTHER PUPFISH SPECIES.



"RICHARD POWERS' PERSISTENT EMPHASIS ON THE GRAND RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMON MAN TO PRESERVE NATURE IN BEWILDERMENT"

BY ANNA GALAKTIONOV

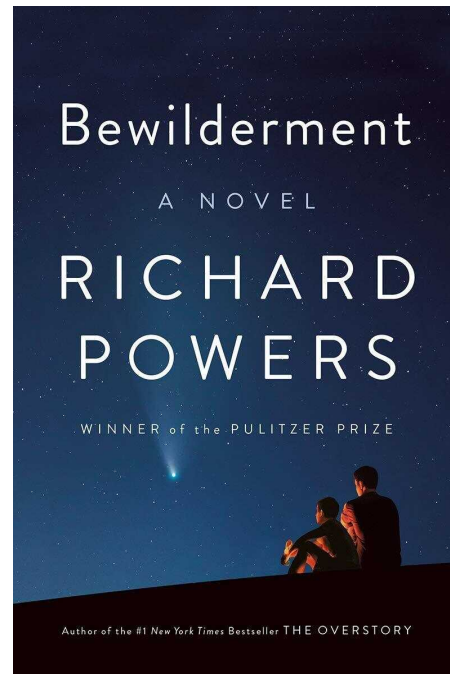
"Every one of us is an experiment, and we don't even know what the experiment is testing," claimed Theo Byrne, a sorrowing widowed father leading the plot in Richard Powers' latest novel titled *Bewilderment*. As an astrobiologist, Theo spent his time simulating possible planetary worlds based on various factors, such as the color of the planet's atmosphere and the distance from its nearest star. He always brought along his 9-year-old son Robin to observe the simulations together. By these celestial explorations, sprinkled throughout the book, the father and son discover how earthly humans are not entitled to the throne and how nature is experimenting on us rather than the other way around, which are both central themes in *The Overstory* and many of Powers' other works.

Robin found emotional comfort in traversing the planetary simulations, as he was a child with frequent emotional disturbances and anger issues that only heightened after the tragic loss of his mother, Alyssa, a former animal rights advocate. He was diagnosed with potential autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, and OCD, which Theo detested, saying, "Oddly, there's no name in the DSM for the compulsion to diagnose people." After smashing the cheekbone of a classmate in school, the principal ordered that Robin be placed on psychoactive drugs. Theo firmly opposed and decided to try an alternative treatment that he and his wife participated in as test subjects years back.

Weaving in science fiction, Powers imagined a futuristic behavioral treatment called Decoded Neurofeedback, a.k.a. DecNef. Mastered by Theo's former colleague Dr. Currier, the treatment involved rewiring patients' brains by having them perform tasks on a screen using solely their mental state. Performing the tasks with the brain scans of prior patients and of his mother as the threshold, Robin's behavior drastically softened. "He wasn't the same person. He was barely the same species," his father said.

Maintaining his uniqueness, Powers, as always, depicted nature in extensive detail, expertise, and beauty throughout the story, especially illustrating animals. Robin was the character who displayed this expertise through his enthusiasm for art, public advocacy, notebook keeping, and treasure hunts with his father. The boy, being a walking, nature encyclopedia and successful result of the DecNef, gained much public attention and was requested to speak for various conferences and shows. Although Theo was concerned with his son possibly being manipulated on the public stage, he gave in for the sake of others and nature, portraying his tug-of-war between proper parenting and concern for the environment.

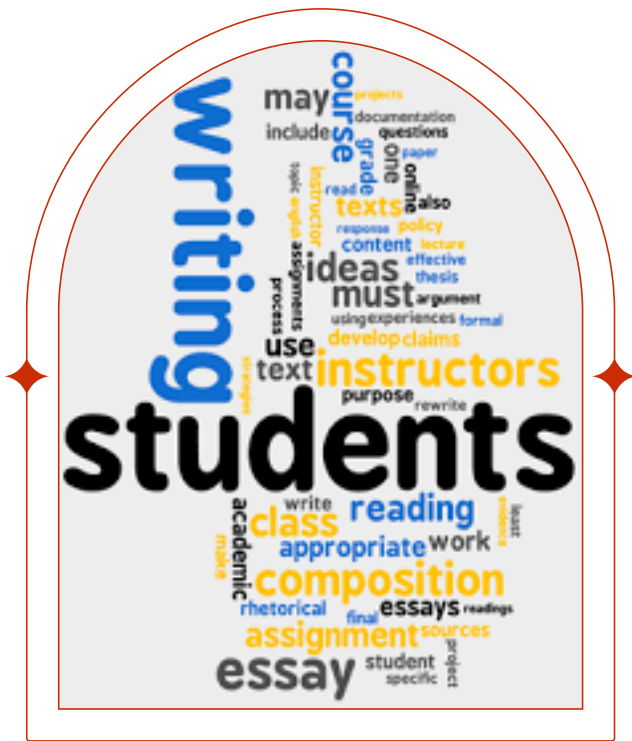
Powers alluded to the election of President Trump and the Capitol Riot in the novel to depict fierce anti-environmentalism in politics. In the story, the newly elected, anti-nature President cut funding for the DecNef, which initiated the downfall of Robin's wellbeing. Throughout the novel, Robin put in endless effort to communicate to government officials and common folk the necessity of preserving life. He then took it to the extreme, marking an agonizing end to his story.



In both *Bewilderment* and *The Overstory*, Powers conveys a sense of hopelessness with regard to people protecting the environment. Many of his characters sacrifice not only their time, but also their entire livelihood and sometimes their life itself for nature's sake, meeting only passivity, or worse, hostility in return. However, there is one hope that Powers leans on, which is the Earth's ability to restore itself after humanity will either become extinct due to its "accumulating mistakes" or when it finally finds complete satisfaction in just being present with nature. This hope is evident all throughout the *Bewilderment*, as can be seen in Robin's statement, "Everybody's inside everyone."

This novel is a capturing read for anyone who is not only concerned for the environment, but who also finds interest in science fiction and drama. It is also more cohesive and shorter than *The Overstory*, since it covers the story of only one group of characters. However, the plot is slightly difficult to follow, as with *The Overstory*, due to Powers' frequent scene changes and lack of organization in the form of chapters. Overall, the *Bewilderment* is an engaging and influencing read.

BRIANNA LOPEZ'S SENIOR HONORS THESIS



HOW ACADEMIC IDENTITY IS LINKED TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY WRITE ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

My Senior Honors Thesis is titled *“How Academic Identity is Linked to a First-Year Student’s Ability to Effectively Write Academic Discourse.”* My thesis studied scholarship in rhetoric and composition to try to understand how students feel about their writing abilities in the first-year English class. I found that students are often not confident in their academic voices, so in first-year writing, they struggle to learn basic writing and research skills that are crucial to their success for the remainder of their college careers.

Having identified this, I interviewed students and professors at Barry to understand the needs of our specific population. I found that students want more structure in the first-year writing class and more relatable readings, and that students do not think first-year writing works in a remote environment. From the professor perspective, I learned that professors believe students’ lack of confidence stems from their past experiences in English classes and that the current first-year writing course needs to break down assignments more to not overwhelm students and help them become confident in their writing voice. Like students, professors also believed that the first-year writing course did not work as well during remote instruction because of the severe lack of engagement.

Based on my research into scholarship and my own interviews, I decided to redesign the first-year writing course syllabus to optimize it for student success, so students felt comfortable enough to be confident in their academic identity. Some key changes I made were eliminating the hybrid version of the course—so it is either in-person or online, asynchronously—proposing new readings that relate more to current issues students will care about, and adding a second research paper assignment so students can learn to create their own writing processes.

BRIANNA DEFENDS HER SENIOR HONORS THESIS ON MONDAY, APRIL 4TH @ 4:00 PM

What Does EDUCATION Mean to Me!

**By: Ann-Stacey
Dumornay**

As an international student, I appreciate the privilege of receiving a good education here in the US, because various challenges jeopardize the progress in the education sector in Haiti. As a kid with divorced parents living in a country where there is a daily political crisis, I've witnessed first hand the lack of psychological assistance in my personal life and in the lives of those around me, which is what drove me to pursue my degree in Psychology. I have been at Barry for almost a year now, and everything that I received has already empowered me to give back to my family and my country. I created my own platform raising awareness about how taboo mental health is in Haiti. The platform is called "Fos Pam," which means "My Strength" in English and is a tool that allows all members of the Haitian community to connect with resources and clinical professionals whether they live in Haiti or abroad. By using Instagram, I am able to reach out to anyone who would like to educate themselves more on the topic of mental health. Since I am still a psychology student, I combine my personal experiences and cultural insights with the expertise of a clinical psychologist. Coming from a country like Haiti, mental health is not something that is prioritized. The stigma on mental health is very big back in my country and I always wanted to break those barriers.



Coming to Barry and being a part of the psychology program has opened my eyes to the things that I would like to do in the future. Though it is dangerous back home due to the riots and high kidnapping rates, I still feel a sense of encouragement to better my community. Cultures of Dimension with Dr. Sirimangkala has taught me that we are the only ones that can set limits for ourselves, no one can do that for us. We are the ones that know what is best for us.

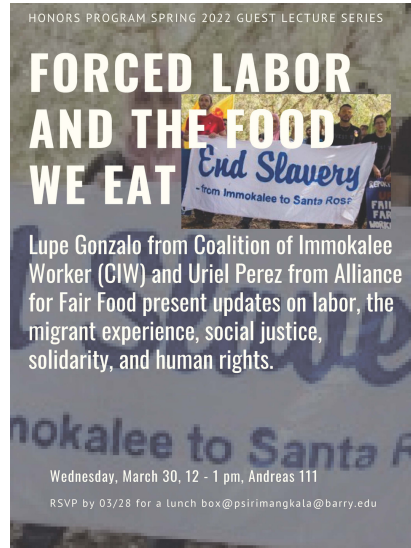
BREAKFAST ON CAMPUS



DUE TO THE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED CANCELLATION OF OUR PLANNED MARCH 19TH FIELD TRIP, THE GROUP ADAPTED QUICKLY BY GATHERING FOR A SPECIAL SATURDAY BREAKFAST ON CAMPUS AND ENJOYING EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.



SPRING 2022 GUEST LECTURE SERIES



MR. URIEL PEREZ, FAIR FOOD ALLIANCE AND MR. LEO PEREZ, CIW MEMBER UPDATED HP STUDENTS ON FORCED LABOR AND THE FOOD WE EAT.



READ MORE ABOUT CIW'S FAIR FOOD CODE OF CONDUCT TO ELIMINATE OVERFILLING OF BUCKETS [HTTPS://CIW-ONLINE.ORG/BLOG/2011/04/BUCKET_OVERFILLING/](https://ciw-online.org/blog/2011/04/bucket_overfilling/)



VISIT CIW'S WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:
<https://ciw-online.org/wp-content/uploads/12SlaveryintheFields.pdf>

EVENTS COMING UP!

EVENING OF CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION

Join Us For A



HONORS PROGRAM APPRECIATION AND GRADUATION CELEBRATION

27 APRIL 2022 | 12 NOON

ANDREAS 111

HP STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION TO FACULTY AND STAFF AND CELEBRATE HP GRADUATION AND THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

RSVP@PSIRIMANGKALA@BARRY.EDU



Welcome to your new workspace!

Here are the details for your new Slack workspace, **Barry University Honors Program and HPSAB**.

B

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