







HONORS PROGRAM FALL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1



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GREETING

Hello all! I hope you are doing well and trying to finish this school year strong in preparation to our upcoming Thanksgiving and Winter break. It feels like this semester went by so fast! I hope that you are studying and finishing up final papers. Know that it is almost over and your hard work will be worth it when you receive your grades. Don't give up! You did not come this far just to come this far. I'm sending lots of positive and creative energy your way. Have a productive rest of the school year :)

Virginia Rivas, HPSAB Co-Chair

A warm welcome to our honors newsletter! As we almost say goodbye to another exciting semester, we're thrilled to share with you the latest news and stories from our honors community. Whether you're a returning student, a new face, or part of our dedicated faculty, there is always something to be grateful for with our honors community. As we approach the end of the semester, we wish you all a smooth and fulfilling finish. Don't forget to appreciate the small joys in life, and from the bottom of our hearts, we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Brendalis Puig, HPSAB Co-Chair



HPSAB MEMBERS



VIRGINIA RIVAS

**SENIOR
CO-CHAIR**

**GRATEFUL FOR BEING ABLE TO
GRADUATE AS A FIRST-GEN
STUDENT**



VIVIANA RIVAS

**JUNIOR
CHIEF EDITOR**

**GRATEFUL FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF
BLESSINGS**



BRENDALIS PUIG

**SENIOR
CO-CHAIR**

**I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE
THAT HAVE SUPPORTED ME
THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR**

HPSAB MEMBERS



SEAN CHIN LOY

SENIOR

GRAPHIC DESIGN TEAM LEADER

**GRATEFUL FOR THE ACADEMIC
OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THIS
PROGRAM AND THE UNIVERSITY**



GRACE STEFFAN

SENIOR

EVENT STAFF

**GRATEFUL FOR MY SISTERS, MY
FRIENDS, AND NATURE**



CALEB GARDNER

SOPHOMORE

**NEWSLETTER WRITER | CULTURAL
CORNER**

**GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT
AND OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE**

HPSAB MEMBERS



SOPHIA JAUQUET

SENIOR

EVENT PLANNER

**GRATEFUL FOR A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY, THE
OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION AND
PURSUE A BIOLOGY DEGREE**



PERPETUA ANURUGWO

SOPHMORE

EVENTS COORDINATOR

GRATEFUL FOR MY PARENTS



DEBBIE ATTELUS

SOPHMORE

CO-EDITOR

GRATEFUL FOR ALL GOD HAS PROVIDED



SIERRA JOHNSON

JUNIOR

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT! GOD FIRST AND THEN THE
PEOPLE AROUND ME WHO GENUINELY
CARE AND SUPPORT ME**



HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. RIVA

Dear Honors Students,

I am thrilled to serve as the new Director of the Honors Program and to build on the strong legacy of Dr. Sirimangkala. With over **100** Honors Program students, it has been a joy to meet and learn from many of you as we continue to enhance your Honors experience.

I wanted to take a moment to share a little about myself and my journey to this role. Born and raised in England, my love of history began early - sparked at age six with a deep fascination with Ancient Egypt. This, combined with my love of reading meant there was only ever one subject I was going to take at university. By this point, Ancient Egypt was but a distant memory, replaced by my curiosity about race relations in the United States. I completed my bachelor's degree at the University of London, where a supportive mentor, and now friend, encouraged my research and guided me toward publishing my senior thesis in a legal history journal. Their encouragement led me to continue my studies in Arkansas, where I earned my doctorate in U.S. history, specializing in race relations.

Since joining Barry University in **2021** as an Assistant Professor of History, I have enjoyed teaching courses that challenge student's perceptions of the U.S. and the world. Now, as Honors Program Director, I am excited to support your growth both intellectually and as leaders of the next generation. We are a community committed to academic excellence both in the classroom and beyond. This program is designed to challenge you, inspire you, and provide opportunities for personal and intellectual growth, and I hope that has been your experience this semester.

My door is always open, and I encourage you to reach out with ideas, questions, or just to share your journey. Together, we will continue to foster a culture of curiosity and achievement.

Warm regards,

Dr. Riva



EVENTS RECAP



CULTURAL CORNER

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(SEP - OCT 15)

Learn about the celebration of the historical, cultural, and societal contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. This encompasses individuals with ancestral connections to Mexico, South and Central American countries, and the Caribbean region. The month's dates align with numerous independence dates of Latin American countries where many individuals engage in activities such as spending time with family and friends, delving into their ancestral history, preparing traditional dishes from their respective countries, and celebrating their family heritage.



CULTURAL CORNER

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

(DAY OF THE DEAD | NOV 1ST & 2ND)

Learn about the Latin American holiday that celebrates the souls of the deceased. Día de los Muertos, a holiday of Mexican origin, commemorates the return of deceased loved ones through a festive celebration that incorporates traditional foods, beverages, and merriment. There is typically an ofrenda or altar created in October to honor those who have passed away. Families will also visit, clean, and decorate cemeteries. Additionally, there are parades where people paint their faces to resemble skulls. It is worth noting its Indigenous roots and that some countries celebrate a version of this day.

by Caleb Gardner
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