COLUMNAS

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BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

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STEPPING OUT

By Amanda Li

Bentley University offers several opportunities for students to experience and explore. However, whether a student takes the time to fill out the form or pursue them is a different story. Every week, my Outlook inbox floods with emails about E-board applications for student organizations, guest speaker panels, or campus events. I would mentally sort each one: "not relevant," "maybe later," "doesn't fit my goal." Categorizing became a routine for me to leave everything for next time because it wasn't directly "helpful" for building my resume. I seek perfection; therefore, if it doesn't show future recruiters that I have knowledge of accounting, then it doesn't matter to me. This mindset prevented me from finding new connections and networking opportunities.

The fall semester provides the perfect opportunity for freshmen because many student organizations look for a freshman liaison. The application process was simple, usually a short form asking about my interests and availability. However, my mindset was locked, and I closed the tab without thinking much about it. A few weeks later, I was dragged into a gen-bod meeting by my friends. At the end of the meeting, I noticed the freshman liaisons in the organization. They were laughing with upperclassmen, connecting with one another on LinkedIn, and getting invited to weekend plans. The interaction made me realize that not everything is about building resumes. Rather, the connection with peers who have stepped in your shoes matters more than adding another line to your resume.

The truth is, stepping out of your comfort zone and trying new things, even if it doesn't necessarily reflect or relate to your future career goal, is key during your journey to success. Therefore, I actively started joining events and organizations to be further involved on campus. I joined two dance organizations at Bentley: Kosmos and Bentley East Asian Dance (BEADS). Dancing had always been a passion for me back in middle school, but I never pursued it due to a lack of confidence. The first practice at Kosmos was nerve-wracking. My hands were shaking as I walked into the dance studio. There were several dancers who seemed to be dancing for years, unlike me, a complete beginner. We learned the routine of the song with the instructor guiding us throughout the way. Although there were times when I stumbled or couldn't understand the movement, I continued to practice. The encouragement from members and the feeling of accomplishment from nailing a tricky step was something that I hadn't experienced in months. BEADS focuses on the usage of fans, ribbons, rhythm, and formation within their dance. The practice was more manageable compared to Kosmos. The position and synchronization with each count taught me patience and attention to detail, skills that recruiters look for in students.

However, these activities don't mean abandoning career-building opportunities. I was rushing Delta Sigma Pi to network with brothers and gain further insight into their experiences of joining a fraternity. Through the process, I had small chats with brothers interning at companies

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INSIDE THE CORPORATE SLOP BOWL

By Wilson Jan

At noon on 42nd Street, just steps away from Bryant Park, the lines begin to form. They snake past glass office towers into storefronts pushing turmeric chicken, spicy salmon, corn salsa, and something vaguely described as “green goddess”. Half dressed for the office and half for the lunch rush, an army of analysts, associates, and interns alike file into what some have jokingly dubbed “Slop Bowl Row.” Stainless steel bins slide along rails. Cilantro lime rice lands first, then a protein, then vegetables, then a drizzle of an aioli with a name no one quite remembers. Within minutes, the same workers are back at their desks, compostable fork in hand, eating over their keyboards illuminated by Excel.

In a district of New York City long associated with company-expensed three-martini steakhouse lunches, the most visible culinary symbol of corporate life is now a biodegradable bowl. According to reporting from NPR and The New York Times, some of these fast casual bowl locations are among the highest-grossing per square foot in the nation, outperforming many traditional sit-down restaurants. What began as a convenient lunch option has evolved into a defining accessory of the modern corporate uniform.

To understand how we got here, we need to rewind to the early 1990s, when a chef named Steve Ells opened a small burrito shop in Denver. That shop would become Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Ells would become a billionaire. The company quietly revolutionized the industry. As CNBC later documented, Ells originally envisioned fine dining; instead, he built an empire around bowl and burrito assembly line customization. Choose your base, add your protein, select your toppings, and move along. An almost perfect model for scaling. From there, the “fast casual” category exploded. Sweetgreen. Dig. Cava. Just Salad. The cuisine started to vary, but the underlying architecture remained consistent.

This rise in popularity poses a question: Why slop bowls? The answer, much like the bowls themselves, has many layers.

First, health. In an era where wellness is increasingly starting to double as social capital, brown rice, roasted brussel sprouts and grilled chicken signal discipline. The bowl implies you aren’t just working hard, but optimizing for your body as well.

Second, accessibility. Fast casual sits between fast food and fine dining, offering quality ingredients without the time commitment. Third, it’s portable. A bowl can be sealed, carried back to a desk, and eaten single- handed while attending to other tasks. In this sense, the slop bowl is less about flavor and more about its functionality. From an insider perspective, the appeal is obvious. In fast-paced environments, lunch is just another variable to manage. The slop bowl minimizes time away from work while maximizing the feeling that you are taking care of yourself. It allows you to nourish your body and your LinkedIn narrative.

This dynamic doesn’t only play out in Manhattan. It takes shape just as clearly on college campuses as well. It is almost too perfect that here at Bentley University, we have our own slop bowl iteration. Inside the Dana Athletic Center sits B’rito, better known as Currito, serving customizable bowls to students who just left a lecture or a lift session. The location alone feels strategic: steps from the athletic facilities, optimized for routine. As student-athlete Derek Silva put it, “Currito is by far the best food option on campus. Better variety than Chipotle, and conveniently located right by the athletic facilities so I can get it every day after practice.” This

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THE SILENCING

By Michael Raphael

An Evaluation of the Global Attacks on the Right to Protest

As winter break was winding down and I was flipping through TV channels, I came across a news station that was showing prominent Iranian Activist Masih Alinejad's passionate condemnation of the Iranian government in front of the United Nations Security Council. Her riveting and painful speech spoke of a government aimlessly killing its own people who were peacefully protesting and creating a communications blackout so that updates of the travesty could not be shared. The w speech unnerved me and was painful to hear but it made me reflect about what the current state of the right to protest was both here in the United States and around the world.

Although the suppression of protests and dissent has been common in many countries for decades, several countries used the Covid-19 pandemic to impose more restrictive laws regarding protests. While initially held under the guise of social distancing and maintaining safety during the pandemic, at least 51 countries used laws to arrest media critics and protesters of how the government was handling the pandemic (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Many of these laws, including the 2020 Hong Kong National Security Law, have stayed in place and been a means to which the government can restrict protest and squash objections regarding government policy. In regard to Hong Kong, the law is viewed as a suppressive tool which degrades and erodes the freedoms that the citizens of Hong Kong notwithstanding the Constitutional protections provided to citizens under the one country two systems policy. (BBC News 2024). In this case, the country with the second largest population in the world (China) wants to ensure that Hong Kong does not drift too far away from its control of rights.

In late October of 2025, widespread protests occurred in Tanzania after the re-election of President Samia Hassan, who ran unopposed, due to a quashing of potential opposition who "disappeared" before being able to oppose her in the election. In the wake of the protests, law enforcement was mobilized to stop the protests and used deadly force leading to hundreds of protesters being killed, injured, and detained (United Nations, 2025). For nearly a week following the grave wave of violence in the country, there were widespread internet blackouts and electricity shutdowns (Amnesty International, 2026). Tanzania's tactics of violent mitigation by a government and cutting off communication lines have been followed by other repressive regimes.

Iranian suppression of dissent and protests have been a mainstay for decades but recently a rather abhorrent event occurred. In Iran, citizens were objecting to the government's mishandling of rabid inflation and worsening living conditions within the country. This led

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THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BAD BUNNY

By Alexandra Rieckehoff

From the Perspective of a Puerto Rican Student in the US

Puerto Rican Culture

A distinctive part of Puerto Rican culture is the passion for music and rhythm. Music is a key element that has connected generations from different backgrounds across the island. Growing up in Puerto Rico meant constantly being surrounded by reggaetón, salsa, bomba y plena, and many other genres, some native to Puerto Rico. All of these sounds were blasted through speakers throughout my childhood during beach days, long car rides, social gatherings, and even while doing simple chores like cleaning my room. Each of these genres carries its own meaning that reflects different aspects of Puerto Rican history and tradition. However, no artist has done this like Bad Bunny, who was able to blend all these music styles into one album. This variety makes the album one of the most versatile albums I've ever listened to. However, his message goes beyond the meaning of music itself, as it delivers a much-needed voice of unity and culture for Puerto Ricans, Latinos, and people around the world

Bad Bunny has been a key figure on the island since he showed authenticity and spoke up for Puerto Rican culture and politics on multiple occasions. His career flourished with the release of *Un Verano Sin Ti*, an album filled with tropical rhythms which capture the feeling of the eternal Puerto Rican summer, since it really does feel like summer all year long. While this album marked a key moment in his career, it was only the beginning of his overall success. As his fame grew, so did the attention and criticism. Bad Bunny quickly

became one of the most talked-about artists in the world, and for many Puerto Ricans living outside the island, he became a symbol that we are constantly associated with. Although he remains a controversial figure due to his lyrics and ideals, his impact has been undeniable.

Cultural Impact

In 2025, Bad Bunny released his album *Debí Tirar Más Fotos*, which focused on nostalgia and the idea of memory, highlighting how valuable moments pass quickly, even when we try to hold on to them. What made this album so special for Puerto Ricans is that it blended many of the genres they grew up with. It highlights traditions and represents a shift away from Bad Bunny's typical lyric style. This combination created an experience that connected with every generation. By transforming key elements of Puerto Rican life into lyrics and sounds, Bad Bunny once again demonstrated his ability to spread his culture, and impact others.

His album served as a symbol of cultural impact as it globally unified the Latin community. It increased the presence of Spanish music in public spaces. I recall being in a restaurant on Newbury Street where they were playing Bad Bunny. This was a cultural moment in my life because even though Spanish music has existed for centuries, it was far less common to hear it in such casual settings ten years ago. Moments like this make Latinos feel listened to, and serve as cultural affirmation of where they are from. Bad Bunny has definitely helped improve multicultural representation and has challenged the idea that success in music is tied to singing in one particular language.

Economic Impact

The success of Bad Bunny's album was so significant that he introduced his first-ever residency in Puerto Rico, consisting of 31 concerts throughout the summer. The entire island transformed because of this movement, and everyone became part of this spectacle. This became far more than just a series of concerts by how the people reacted to it.

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STREAMING CHANGED MUSIC, BUT IS IT FAIR TO ARTISTS?

By Karina Wu

What I Learned as a Young Artist Navigating the Streaming Economy

The first time I released a song, I kept refreshing the streaming page, watching the numbers slowly rise. Each new play felt like proof that someone, somewhere, had heard my voice. For a moment, it felt like I had entered the same world as the artists I admired, a space where music could travel instantly, crossing cities, countries, and languages. But a few days later, the numbers stopped moving. The platform still held it, but it was no longer visible. That was when I began to question how the streaming system actually works and whether it is fair to the artists who depend on it.

Today, music has never been more accessible. With just a few taps, listeners can explore millions of songs from around the world. Streaming platforms have transformed how we discover music, lowering barriers for new artists like me and allowing anyone to share their work globally. In many ways, the system feels more open and democratic than ever before. Yet, behind this accessibility lies a more complicated reality.

Most artists are paid based on the number of times their songs are streamed, and each stream generates only a fraction of a cent. For example, Spotify pays roughly $0.003 to $0.005 per stream (Spotify for Artists). This means that artists must have millions of streams to earn even a modest income. For independent musicians, reaching that level of exposure is extremely difficult, and the revenue often fails to cover even basic production costs. Meanwhile, a small number of top artists, with billions of streams, continue to dominate both visibility and earnings.

At first, this may seem like a simple issue of low pay. But over time, I realized that the deeper problem is not just how much artists earn, but how visibility is distributed. Streaming platforms rely heavily on algorithms to recommend music to listeners. These systems prioritize engagement and popularity, often using measurable signals such as skip rate, completion rate, and listener retention to evaluate a song's performance. Songs that capture attention quickly are more likely to be recommended, while those that are skipped early may disappear from circulation. This creates a feedback loop: early exposure leads to more streams, and more streams signal to the algorithm that a song is worth promoting. In this system, visibility is not neutral; it is continuously reinforced.

Over time, algorithms not only shape what listeners hear but also influence how music is created. Artists may begin to adapt their work to fit algorithmic preferences, prioritizing shorter intros, immediate hooks, or viral potential. In this sense, algorithms are not just tools of distribution; they act as invisible curators of culture.

The structure of revenue distribution further reinforces this imbalance. Most platforms use a model in which all subscription and advertising revenue is pooled and distributed based on total stream share. This means that even if a listener primarily supports independent artists, a portion of their subscription may still go to already popular musicians. Over time, this creates a system where success leads to more visibility, and more visibility leads to even greater success, which is a cycle that is difficult to break.

Ultimately, the question is not simply whether streaming is good or bad. It is about whether a system built on creativity can also support the people who create. As listeners, we benefit from instant access to an almost limitless library of music. But perhaps it is worth asking: in a world where music is everywhere, are we truly valuing the artists behind it?

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FEELING THE MUSIC: HOW HAPTIC WEARABLES ARE CHANGING THE WAY WE EXPERIENCE SOUND

By Michael Shehata

For most of human history, music has been something you hear. But a wave of wearable technology is challenging that assumption, making it possible to feel sound move through your body. Haptic shirts to smart wristbands are strong examples that currently exist among us and are transforming how we perceive sound.

The key to this technology lies in the actuators, the tiny motors and drivers embedded in wearable devices that translate audio signals into physical vibrations. Standard phone vibrators are crude tools by comparison: they produce a single, blunt buzz with little expressive range. Voice coil actuators (VCAs), by contrast, operate on the same electromagnetic principle as a loudspeaker's voice coil, but without a diaphragm to produce sound, and unlike narrowly tuned actuators, they can deliver stronger forces over a much wider frequency range – **PUI Audio**. This makes them capable of reproducing the subtle vibrato of a violin or the deep thud of a kick drum as recognizable and unique sensations on the skin.

Meanwhile, Northwestern University researchers recently took the concept even further. Their new wearable device applies force in any direction to generate a variety of sensations, including vibrations, stretching, pressure, sliding, and twisting, and can combine sensations and operate at varying speeds to simulate a more nuanced, realistic sense of touch. **Northwestern Now**, the team noted they were able to map the characteristics of music onto haptic sensations without losing the subtle information associated with specific instruments.

DSP: The Brain Behind the Body

Making a person feel an entire orchestral mix, rather than just a mix of unorganized vibration signals, requires sophisticated digital signal processing (DSP). Researchers at the National Chin-Yi University of Technology addressed this directly in a 2025 **study**. They introduced a wearable haptic music player that uses piezoelectric actuators alongside a novel audio-tactile rendering algorithm, employing the YIN algorithm to extract pitch and spectral flux to capture rhythm. The result is a device that can parse an audio file and deliver distinct tactile signals for melody, timbre, rhythm, and pitch, and this directs the music into different musical elements to different points on the body, which really transforms what a sound is for us as humans.

Concerts You Can Feel

This technology isn't confined to research labs. A company called Tactus served as an official partner of the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics, where athletes and attendees from around the world were able to test haptic wearables firsthand. The company is now piloting hybrid concerts launching in Tokyo and Hong Kong, where both performers and audience members wear Tactus gear so that everyone in the crowd shares the same visceral energy. **Wearable-technologies**

Another strong example is the Feelbelt, a wearable belt developed by a German startup, which takes a similar approach: it converts the full frequency spectrum of an audio program into haptic feedback using patented software, with 10 independent pulse generators transmitting sounds around the body and inducing the perception of directions, distance, and the highs and lows of individual tones – **AudioXpress**

A New Door for the Deaf Community

Perhaps the most important

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THE STORY BEHIND DAVOS, ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS SUMMITS

By Nilufar Noorian

The World Economic Forum's annual meeting took place in Davos, Switzerland, from January 19-23, 2026. The Davos Summit is a major influential event where major business and political leaders, including CEOs of multinational companies, participate. This year, over 60 heads of state and approximately 830 top CEOs and chairmen of companies gathered at Davos. This was one of the highest-level meetings in the history of Davos. Geopolitics and trade impact us all as consumers and business students, as they affect our daily lives. Thus, it is important to understand the history of the village of Davos, and how it evolved into what it is today, as well as discussing the significant events that have unfolded at the summit.

In 1850, Davos, Switzerland, was a poor, remote village in the Graubünden mountains. In 1900, it became a world-renowned mountain health resort and fashionable spa and tourist town.

It all started with a German doctor, Alexander Spengler, in November 1853, when he studied medicine in Switzerland. More specifically, he treated patients with tuberculosis. The history of the summit derives from these events, as Dr. Spengler treated many people during the 1850s epidemic in Europe, which had a mortality rate as high as 900 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants per year. The city of Davos seemed to be immune to this contagious disease that had impacted the lives of the rich and poor. Dr. Spengler's unconventional idea at the time was to establish a spa in the mountains. After he observed the conditions of his patients improving drastically as a result of the fresh air and spa-like area with indoor sun lounges on large wooden sleighs at Davos. Due to this revelation, foreign investors decided to make Davos a metropolitan city by establishing the first boutique spa hotel with Dr. Spengler. As a result, Davos went from a remote agricultural village at Europe's highest town (10,000+ feet above sea level, or 2 miles of vertical elevation), to a bustling town known for health benefits due to the creation of spas and luxury hotels. Medical advancements and tourism drew people in, which led to Davos being chosen for the privacy and retreat-like atmosphere to promote having frank conversations.

Many decades later, these conversations morphed into a meeting where leaders addressed economic issues. Soon after that, political leaders were invited to a summit which broadened the scope and agenda to include international economic policy. The summit expanded dramatically and in 1971, the first World Economic Forum took place in Davos, with 444 attendees.

Some notable events at the Davos Summit include the 1992 handshake between Nelson Mandela and Frederik

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HOW DO WE KEEP FEEDING THE MACHINE?

By Eloise Weintraub

In Greek mythology, there is a cautionary tale of hubris and hunger in the story of Erysichthon (The Curse of Erysichthon, 2023). Era-sick-thin was a man of considerable wealth; one day he happened to come upon a grove sacred to the goddess of the grain, Demeter. Demeter declared the grove and all the trees within it sacred, yet Erysichthon, only concerned with material gain, ordered the whole grove cut down. Shocked and bereaved at his action, Demeter cursed Erysichthon with eternal hunger. At first, he easily satisfied his hunger; however, as his money ran dry, so did his cupboards, yet his hunger remained. He began to walk the earth searching for anything he could eat, but he could not shake his hunger. He eventually found himself so destitute and starved that he placed his foot on a plate and consumed himself. In trying to grow his strength and status, he ultimately failed due to a destiny born of his own desire. Just as Erysichthon's relentless consumption ultimately outpaced the resources that sustained him, today's rapid expansion of artificial intelligence risks creating a system whose growing physical demands on energy, infrastructure, and human health may undermine the very progress it promises.

As AI's use and incorporation into day-to-day life continue, so does the need for greater infrastructure to support its growth. This requires both private and public funding to support server expansion, power generation, and increased water filtration. Having said this, I believe that the greatest threat to the AI sector's growth is the lack of infrastructure development. While energy capacity and regulation are part of the challenge, they stem from larger systemic issues; for example, until the issue of producing enough energy is addressed, debates about energy allocation become secondary.

To begin, I would like to briefly review how AI servers go from a blank screen to generating answers in seconds (O'Donnell & Crownhart, 2025). It begins with an energy-intensive training process to prepare the AI for consumer use. After this stage, companies spend substantial time and resources refining their models. Once it is in the user's hands, a prompt is sent through remote servers, where it is processed using large amounts of electricity drawn from various energy sources such as coal, natural gas, or renewables. These servers also require significant water usage to cool both the data centers themselves and, in some cases, the power plants supplying them. After this process occurs, systems store and manage increasing amounts of data, forcing companies to continually expand their server capacity as their user base grows.

It is also important to distinguish between where most of this energy consumption occurs. The initial training of an AI model requires an immense concentration of energy, whereas an individual user prompt consumes a comparatively small amount. For example, training a large model such as GPT-4 has been estimated to require

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GREG FARBER - ENGLISH AND MEDIA STUDIES DEPARTMENT

This interview was conducted, transcribed, and prepared for publication by Alyssa Galin and Emma Davis.

Professor Farber, a Bentley alumnus with an MFA, is a Distinguished Lecturer and serves as Director of the Writing Center and Director of Academic Integrity in the English and Media Studies Department. A practicing playwright, he teaches expository writing, playwriting, and screenwriting, and is noted for fostering a comfortable and engaging classroom environment. Since joining Bentley full-time in 2010, he has led the Writing Center, managing a staff of undergraduate tutors, developing new training programs, expanding online tutoring, and adding initiatives focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and oral communication. He has also launched writing workshops, curated a student photography gallery, and standardized evaluation processes within the center. As the first ever graduate of Bentley's Honors program, he has taught Honors EMS courses and screenwriting classes, mentoring generations of students along the way. He has been recognized as a nominee for the Excellence in Academic Mentoring and Advising Award, and we were thrilled to sit down with him for an interview, here's what he had to say:

Columnas: *What really drew you into teaching with the honors program?*

Professor Farber: I think that part of it is kind of my own experiences. It was a good opportunity to have a smaller class size, right? Like all the obvious things. But I remember, I had a very fond experience or fond memories of those classes. That they were where some of the most interesting kinds of conversations happened. And as a teacher, I found that often to be true as well, that we just kind of have the opportunity to kind of get into things in depth in a way that we don't always in other classes or that students might not be willing to. I think to some degree there's kind of expectations, norms, and culture around that. Which I think are really important. I think it's not always necessary to have honors students to have those experiences. But, I think that it's those expectations and the set up that make it easier to. I think, actually, one of the best classes that I taught was a long time ago when we had 2 required writing classes. The 2nd one was primarily a research paper writing class. And for whatever reason, the class didn't fill. A handful of folks asked if they could take the class [despite not being honors] and said it wasn't full. And so, it was about half honors students, half not honors students. I, to this day, don't know who was an honors student and who wasn't. It was really like students who took that class were excited to be engaged and excited to have those discussions. You ask, why am I interested in it or what drew me to it, it's that. It's that ability to kind of dive in and get into the sticky stuff and be able to think through it together.

Columnas: *You've taught both non-honors and honors as well as a mixed course. Do you think from that experience there is a stereotype around honors students?*

Professor Farber: No. Look, I think that there are obviously standards for all students at Bentley. I think that students who do well in school often do well, not necessarily because they're smarter or better at any given subject. Especially prior to college, so much of it is about "playing by the rules" or understanding the game, understanding the rules of the game and being able to engage in that. To do that successfully, I think depending on where you are in school, a lot of it is stuff that I suspect we take for granted. You show up on time. You do, in fact, turn in assignments. The professor reaches out to you, you respond, right? I think in order to have success often at the high school level, it's about doing all those things. And so that's often, and again, that's not

necessarily the entirety of what makes a good honors student, but I think almost all honor students have gotten that part down before they come to college. And so that "good" behavior, in turn, allows for some of the other stuff. If you are generally a responsible student, then it's easier to have class discussions because you've done the work. Sometimes not everybody in the class has done the reading or assignment, but, when you know the majority have, you're just not dealing with some of the classroom management stuff. Then when you add all those up, it just allows for more time and space in the class to do the stuff that all of us ultimately want to be doing.

Columnas: *How do your honors courses allow you to be creative and innovative in your teaching?*

Professor Farber: I think this is true or can be true of pretty much any class. I think that it's all about creating the right conditions in a classroom. Like I said, I think that sometimes honors classes just make that easier because people have a sense of the expectations

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GREG HALL - NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

This interview was conducted, transcribed, and prepared for publication by Alyssa Galin and Emma Davis.

Professor Hall spent many years at Bentley as a member of the Natural and Applied Sciences Department, where he taught psychology and explored how human behavior intersects with modern business and technology. His research focused on topics such as adolescent development, financial psychology, crisis counseling, and the behavioral influences of technology, including cyber-psychology and consumer behavior in the digital age. Throughout his career, he was widely recognized for his dedication to students and teaching, receiving numerous honors including the Adamian Award for Excellence in Teaching, multiple Faculty Member of the Year awards, the Innovation in Teaching Award, the Curricular Service-Learning Faculty Award, as well as others at Bentley. During his time as Associate Dean in the late 1990s, he also initiated the concept that eventually became Bentley's Honors Program. Though he has been enjoying retirement for several years now, his impact on the Bentley community continues to be felt, and we at Columnas are grateful for the legacy he left behind. Though he couldn't join us for a live interview, he kindly answered our questions virtually, here's what he had to say.

Columnas: *I know you initiated the start of the Honors Program, could you walk me through what inspired you to do this?*

Professor Hall: I was inspired to initiate the development of an Honors Program in the late 1990s when I served as the Associate Dean in Academic Affairs. The idea was sparked by many of my students' interest in additional intellectual challenges. One of the unique aspects of our Honors Program is the opportunity to apply to join the program if one is not initially offered the opportunity at the point of admission to Bentley.

Columnas: *What did you enjoy most about working with honors students?*

Professor Hall: I have found that Honors students are more likely to engage the professor and their fellow students in an Honors class. The students are inquisitive and intellectually curious. Students are quick to make linkages between the content in one course with that of another course. The questions and perspectives Honors students bring to discussions require professors to be prepared to take a multitude of potential directions for any given class period.

Columnas: *What did you enjoy most about the honors community and working with honors students?*

Professor Hall: Personally, one of the most enjoyable aspects of teaching in the Honors Program has been my discussions with students that continue after a class has ended or during office hours.

Columnas: *How do you hope honors students feel when they graduate?*

Professor Hall: I hope upon graduation Honors students leave with a true sense of accomplishment, especially their completion of the capstone project.

MICHAEL QUINN - ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

This interview was conducted, transcribed, and prepared for publication by Alyssa Galin and Emma Davis.

Professor Quinn has played a major role in shaping several of Bentley's academic programs throughout his career. A member of the Economics Department, he has published more than twenty-five journal articles in economic development and labor economics, taught sixteen courses from first-year undergraduates to PhD seminars, and supervised numerous honors theses and doctoral dissertations. He has held leadership roles in the First-Year Programs, the Honors Program, and the PhD Programs, including helping create Bentley's First-Year Development Seminar (FDS) and contributing to the Honors Capstone Project. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his dedication to teaching and mentorship with awards such as the Adamian Award for Lifetime Teaching Excellence, the Adamian Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Cronin Award for Excellence in Advising, and Honors Faculty of the Year. We asked Professor Quinn to tell us a little about himself and his experiences at Bentley, here's what he had to say.

Columnas: *[in response to "tell me about yourself"] So you have a little bit of knowledge in every aspect of everything?*

Professor Quinn: I find knowledge interesting. Like, in the PhD program right now I'm teaching PhD accounting students. I actually supervised a PhD in information systems last year. I've supervised a few people in management before in their PhDs. I just find things are interesting. You're in university, you can learn whatever you want. Your knowledge is only limited by what you want to learn. We're just teaching you how to learn stuff. You can go and learn whatever you want.

Columnas: *What makes the honors program special and unique at this university?*

Professor Quinn: I think it's all about the personal touch and the experiences. That's what it is for me anyway. In the honors program, people have small class sizes, that's great. But the purpose of a small class is to actually get to know the people. It's getting to know the students. Next week I'll be here with some of my EC 225 honors students. I make some days and times for lunches. I want to get to know people. It's hard to do that in a class of 35 people. You know what I mean? When you get small groups, you get to know people. There should be experiences in the classroom and outside the classroom, too. That's really what it's about. There's got to be something like that. There's got to be a reason you come to a place like Bentley and participate in an honors program. I mean, I could talk about all sorts of stuff there. The honors students want to get to know people, too. They're human beings. You gotta get to know them.

Columnas: *What's one word to describe honors students?*

Professor Quinn: I would say interesting. People were saying hardworking, and intellectually curious, and all that kind of stuff. I say interesting. That's why I have lunch with people, I find them interesting. I enjoy talking to them. In a non-honors class, not everyone's gonna be. Some people just don't really care.. You got, like, D's get degrees, sit in the back,

you know what I mean? You pray to God, you don't get them in your group. It's just gonna be a half wrong Chat GPT thing that they just produced, and it's going to be jointly graded. You're not gonna get the person you don't want to work with in the group, if you're in an honors class, right? I keep in touch with a lot of alumni and such, and people drop me a line after years. That's what makes this job interesting. You get to meet interesting people all the time. If all you do is show up in a classroom, you teach them and answer questions, you don't get to know the people, and you've wasted the opportunity.

Columnas: *So how do students push you to grow as an instructor? Professors push us out of our comfort zone. How do we [as students] reciprocate that?*

Professor Quinn: Sometimes you do get people who you're talking to and like conspiracy theories, and things

(Continued on page 20)

STEPPING OUT *(Continued from page 2)*

that I'm interested in. Most of their extracurricular activities weren't career-focused. They showed me that the skills they learned from their involvement are significant to a resume as well.

My old self would never have understood that not everything has to do with accounting. My experience showed me that involvement on campus is more significant than simply learning technical skills. By truly stepping out and making yourself heard through building connections and balancing your passion and career, you show what future employees look for.

INSIDE THE CORPORATE SLOP BOWL *(Continued from page 3)*

logic is airtight. There's something fitting about a business school housing its very own slop bowl hub. Case study meets consumption.

It's ironic but predictable. If Midtown's Slop Bowl Row is any indication, this isn't merely a trend, it's becoming a culture. Just as corporate dress codes relaxed from power suits to quarter-zips, corporate dining has shifted from steakhouse lunches to compostable containers. Much like the change of attire, the emphasis isn't on hierarchy anymore. It's about efficiency and optimization.

The future of fast casual will likely mirror that of corporate culture. More personalization, more data, and more emphasis on wellness metrics and brand alignment. Maybe tomorrow's bowl will be AI-calibrated to your macros before you return to your office. Whatever form it takes, the principle will remain the same: reduce friction, increase output.

From the Bryant Park Slop Bowl Row to the Dana Center, the slop bowl isn't just what we eat. It reflects not just how we work, but how we're being trained to think as future business leaders. Efficient, modular, customizable, and above all, designed to perform.

THE SILENCING *(Continued from page 4)*

to the government implementing a communications blackout within the country and a brutalist execution of protesters in the form of, “the deadliest two-day protest massacre in history” as more than 36,500 protesters were killed amidst a nationwide crackdown of protests on January 8th and 9th” (Iran International Editorial Board 2026). This atrocity and use of deadly force mark another instance of the Iranian government desperately trying to repress dissent within the country and cling on to power. Unfortunately, this quashing of dissent through intimidation and use of force is not unique to Iran.

In the United States, the deployment of Immigration Customs Enforcement officers or (ICE) for Operation Metro Surge in cities across the country have led to widespread protests and tense interactions with ICE officers. The epicenter of these combative interactions between ICE officials and protesters is happening in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which met a tragic apex after the killing of protester Renee Good on January 7th. In the aftermath of the Good killing, an overwhelming stream of protests in the city led to several instances of ICE officers using pepper spray and unnecessary force on peaceful protesters. As a cause of the mass protests and numerous lawsuits of protester rights violations within the city, a federal district court judge in Minnesota ordered the ICE agents to not, “arrest lawful protesters, use pepper spray to disperse peaceful crowds or stop protesters vehicles when they are not hindering officers’ efforts on immigration” (Romero, 2026). Unfortunately, these attempted steps toward deescalation of the Department of Homeland Security agents weere not put into practice when the tragic killing of Alex Pretti occurred. Pretti, who was recording the immigration officers with his phone, stepped in front of a woman to protect her from a Border Patrol officer. He was subsequently pepper-sprayed and pinned to the ground by multiple Border Patrol officers after his firearm, which he was legally allowed to carry, was taken away from him. He was then punched multiple times while pinned to the ground by the Border Patrol agents. Finally, after being restrained by these agents, he was shot multiple times and killed (Vinick 2026). What you just read was not an event from a dictatorship or an oppressive government 60 years ago, this happened in broad daylight, on a public street, in the second largest democracy in the world just last month.

In Australia on February 9th, thousands of protesters gathered to protest Issac Herzog, the President of Israel’s visit in Sydney where excessive uses of force led to people being pushed over by police, punched or forcibly taken away by police in the midst of their peaceful prayer bows. The incident is still under review by the New South Wales conduct commission, but what the event signifies is far more ominous than the police’s actions. Australians’ right to protest has been eroded over the past few decades by waves of legislation, including a limiting of the ability to seek protest authorization (Stevens 2026). These seemingly minor changes in the law and policing attitudes reared their ugly head in Sydney but they are indicative of the trends of nations across the world.

All corners of the world are currently being affected by these pernicious changes. Regardless of political viewpoint or stance, the overarching trend of suppressing and trying to intimidate protests can limit and weaken the avenues of accountability for governments around the world. Many of the world’s greatest societal changes have stemmed from civil disobedience and peaceful protest so the widespread weakening of its protections should alarm everyone. Oddly enough, the best way to stem this dangerous tide of suppressing the right to peacefully protest- is to peacefully protest.

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THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BAD BUNNY *(Continued from page 5)*

Having the opportunity to experience this change firsthand was something unique. I remember driving around and encountering street billboards of different companies using Bad Bunny's album to promote their services. The social scene also shifted, as nightclub pop-ups were introduced as "after parties" for every concert night. Restaurants changed item menus and made themed drinks. Local fashion trends shifted, particularly those with cultural symbols, as more people bought the famous pavas and guayaberas for the shows.

However, the impact went beyond just locals. According to *Forbes*, Bad Bunny's residency was an economic windfall for Puerto Rico, bringing in around $200 million for the island's economy (Melville, 2025). The tourism sector of the island benefited heavily from this, as thousands of tourists visited Puerto Rico for the concerts during the months of July through September. In fact, Bad Bunny's team promoted this well: when the concert tickets went on sale, there was an option for tourists to purchase a package including a hotel stay and a concert ticket. The prices of these packages ranged from around $500 to $900 per person. This was significant for Puerto Rico, according to *Travel + Leisure*, the low season for tourism on the island is from July to November (Doherty, 2026). This phenomenon also helped Bad Bunny gain fame for his upcoming tour and for the success of the album.

Social Impact

Behind Bad Bunny's residency and series of concerts, there is also a powerful community that has been transformed by his music. Undeniably, Bad Bunny has become a social voice for the world. He made history when, according to *Forbes*, his album became the first Spanish-language album to win Album of the Year at the Grammy Awards (McIntyre, 2026). In his acceptance speech, he stated, "We are all humans and we are Americans." Through this message, he aimed to serve as a symbol of unity and emphasize that all people are equal. Bad Bunny has consistently represented marginalized communities making sure everyone is heard.

Bad Bunny reaffirmed his commitment to social change through his Super Bowl performance. The central message of his show was, "The only thing more powerful than hate is love," and it became the first Super Bowl halftime performance to be fully in Spanish. While many criticized this, they analyzed the purpose of his performance: to promote an inclusive and cultural environment while reaching an audience far beyond the US football audience. Latinos around the world felt represented, and even celebrities publicly reacted to the moment. Although the performance sparked controversy, this reaction itself highlights its social impact, since it exposed audiences to Latin culture and created conversations about representation and identity.

Puerto Rican Representation

Being from Puerto Rico and studying in the United States makes me miss home at times, but having iconic figures like Bad Bunny who bring Puerto Rico with them wherever they go makes me feel heard and represented. The fact that Puerto Rico is an island as small as 100 miles long and 35 miles wide but is known worldwide because of the phenomenon that Bad Bunny has become is truly inspiring. His voice is motivation for future generations, and emphasizes the idea that we are all equal. Beyond numbers and awards, Bad Bunny is a symbol of unity who has placed Puerto Rico and our community in a position of respect.

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FEELING THE MUSIC *(Continued from page 7)*

application of haptic music technology is its potential for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Co-design sessions with deaf participants have shown that vibrotactile wearables improve sound perception and make collaboration with hearing individuals more seamless. **Hearview** Research and companies in this space are increasingly treating haptics not as an accessibility add-on, but as a primary mode of musical experience. Early users of these devices have described being overwhelmed by the emotional depth of the sensations and feeling the music through their body. Another strong example is The Sound Shirt, **a demo of it**. The shirt uses a complex network of haptic sensors (small vibrating motors) embedded within the fabric. When an orchestra plays, microphones around the stage capture the audio and transmit it to the shirt's software, and then the person can feel the actual tones through the shirt. For example, deep bass notes or drums might be felt in the lower back or stomach, and a light violin can be felt through the arms. It's very impressive when you think about it, and how that can transform a life for someone who can't listen to feel the actual sound.

What's Next

By 2026, haptic feedback in music has expanded beyond experimental studios into practical use cases: audiences experience synchronized vibrations during virtual concerts from home setups, music-driven haptics will enhance gaming immersion, and therapeutic providers will use vibration-based tracks to create grounding and meditative effects during wellness treatments.

The question researchers and designers are now grappling with is not whether we can make people feel music—we clearly can—but how to standardize the mapping of sound to touch so that experiences are consistent and meaningful. As DSP algorithms grow more intelligent and actuator hardware grows smaller and cheaper, the idea of putting on a shirt before a concert the same way you put on headphones feels less like science fiction and more like an inevitable next step.

Music has always been about connection. Haptic wearables simply give that connection a whole new dimension.

THE STORY BEHIND DAVOS *(Continued from page 8)*

Willem de Klerk (F.W. de Klerk), South Africa's deputy president, which ended apartheid in South Africa. Another significant event that resulted from Davos was the idea of the G20 group following the 1998 financial crisis in emerging economies. This crisis displayed the inability of the G7 nations to solely manage global economic instability. It showed that emerging countries were just as important and needed to be part of the discussion. The group was officially established in 1999, and they meet once a year to discuss "coordinat[ing] global policy on finance, trade, health, [and] climate" among other matters. Countries can be invited to join summits, such as Spain, which has been a permanent guest in meetings since 2008. The G20 is one the world's 19 largest economies and two regional organizations, the European Union and the African Union, were created at Davos. This new body, the G20, would comprise 10 developed and 10 emerging economies.

This World Economic Forum has implemented other important initiatives. One example is Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, with a goal of increasing immunization access in developing countries. It is a public-private partnership to help vaccinate 50% of the world's children against some of the deadliest diseases. The Gates Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded in 2000 by Bill and Melinda Gates, have been a large supporter of Gavi. A more recent initiative is 'Blue Davos' which aims to integrate freshwater and ocean stewardship into global economic strategies. By bringing leaders together, the summit at Davos continues to play a major role in establishing initiatives and fostering collaboration to address critical global challenges.

Overall, Davos has played an instrumental role in significant historical moments and continues to be a pivotal location where business and government leaders meet. Some key topics that were discussed in the World Economic Forum's 56th annual meeting were economic growth, AI and technology adoption, and geopolitics, among others. Davos is an influential business event where business leaders gather, and the summit shapes the future of global economics and technological policies. The summit continues to provide insights into future trends on climate action, jobs, and geopolitics, helping to understand the future job market, which affects everyone in the world. Key decisions are made by world leaders and CEOs at Davos, which influence international trade and corporate strategies, making Davos an annual event you should follow.

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HOW DO WE KEEP FEEDING THE MACHINE? *(Continued from page 9)*

tens of millions of kWh, while a single prompt may use only a fraction of a kWh. However, while each individual use is small, the cumulative impact of millions of daily users significantly increases ongoing energy demand.

In addition to the actions occurring inside the data centers, surrounding communities experience external effects such as constant noise pollution. To operate, servers rely on industrial-scale cooling systems that must run continuously to prevent overheating (Morgan, 2026). They also contribute indirectly to air pollution through their energy demands, further affecting public health. This health burden is not distributed equally; Black Americans are more likely to have data centers built in their communities, increasing exposure to pollution in areas that have historically faced similar environmental inequities (Wilson, 2026).

An additional cost of AI is the increase in electricity and water usage, which can contribute to rising utility costs for residents. Energy prices have increased by 40% since February 2020 (Horsley, 2025), and water usage across the country has increased by 32% (Manzanares, 2026). While these increases cannot be attributed solely to AI, factors such as inflation, population growth, and climate patterns also play significant roles, the rapid expansion of data centers adds additional strain to already stressed systems. This impact is amplified in drought-prone areas such as deserts, where many data centers are built. To mitigate the high cost of land and the effects of natural disasters, companies often prefer locations in states such as Arizona and Nevada (Desert Data: Inside Arizona and Nevada's Data Center Surge, 2025).

As a result of these negative community impacts, many community and environmental groups have utilized social media to advocate for policy change. Recently, in New Brunswick, a community-organized group successfully protested the development of a 27,000-acre AI server farm. The land will now be repurposed as a public park (Victory, 2026). While this represents a clear community victory, it also reflects a trade-off: the rejection of potential jobs, tax revenue, and infrastructure investment that often accompany such developments. These tensions highlight the complexity of balancing economic growth with environmental and public health concerns.

AI has become so integrated into society that the idea of not using it is unrealistic. It offers substantial benefits in areas such as medicine, and, in all honesty, I am using it for support as I write now. However, what can we do to mitigate these issues? We cannot eliminate AI, but we must expand the infrastructure that supports it responsibly. Building more power plants, water filtration systems, and health resources to address the resulting impacts can help, but this raises another issue: who will pay for it? Large tech companies like Microsoft have proposed plans to cover both the initial and ongoing costs of such projects to reduce the community burden (Duffy, 2026). While this may be a step in the right direction, it fails to fully address the need for clean energy sources and the limits of natural resources, particularly water. It is also worth noting that AI technology is constantly evolving, and future systems may become more energy-efficient than current models.

The purpose of this piece is not to suggest that AI is entirely negative or that we should stop using it, but rather to address its deeper structural challenges. In order to grow, it requires constant energy, water, and land. It has direct health implications for surrounding communities, disproportionately affecting minority populations. To address these issues, we need public regulation to ensure cleaner energy production, increased investment in water conservation technologies, and continued research into the long-term effects of data center exposure. AI is not going anywhere, but it is not too late to tame the beast before its consequences become irreversible.

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GREG FARBER - ENGLISH AND MEDIA STUDIES DEPARTMENT *(Continued from page 10)*

coming in. But I think when you're able to have a class that, maybe a little bit sooner than another class kind of clicks or is willing to engage with material, it builds a trust that allows you to experiment more. It's easier to come in and say "I wasn't planning on doing this, but we were talking about this thing [in class] and I was thinking about this activity or this exercise. Can we just give it a try?" I think that when you have that trust or relationship in the classroom, that becomes much easier and it allows you to try new things. Sometimes in advance, but sometimes on the fly. I think that sometimes the most interesting things come out because somebody said something or somebody else was like, "oh, did you see this article?" or "I watched this video." It allows for something like "Okay, well let's actually show it to the class," "Let's talk about it" or, "oh, that actually reminds me of this other thing. For next class, I'm going to bring in this article that reminded me of it."

Columnas: *What advice would you give to the honor students to get the most out of the program?*

Professor Farber: I mean, I think there are 2 things. One is to get to know your professors. That's true everywhere, that's true for everyone. But it's all about those connections. In addition to teaching honors classes, I've been an honors capstone advisor. So it's like, I meet someone in this class, and sometimes, I keep in touch with folks, sometimes I don't. Sometimes, two years later, someone will come up to me and go "hey, I'm working on this thing, would you be willing to work on it?" I've had folks ask for letters of recommendation. I think that there are a lot of benefits to getting to know your professors and working with them, and especially in the honors program because there's so many opportunities. I think that's even more important. The other thing is, because of the kind of class, size, and the class structure, more than some other classes, there are opportunities for real class discussion and engagement. Students should take advantage of that. Not all classes are like that, and not all classes are quite as small, and not all professors are as willing to have those conversations, but so much comes from that moment when students are willing to engage. I say this mostly because they're sharing things with each other that are interesting and people don't think of regularly. They bring so much to the class. Engaging in those conversations open that door to learning new things.

Columnas: *What is your favorite memory with a student, a class, just something that just makes you smile when you think of it?*

Professor Farber: This was actually from last fall. I taught an honors section of EMS 101. It was probably, I mean, it was one of the single best classes I have ever taught in the 20 years that I've been teaching. It was one of those classes where the folks just kind of clicked very early in the semester. One of the students who was always there on time, shows up five, 10 minutes late. And she comes into the class and she's completely flustered. She comes in, puts her stuff down, and then walks out the door again. She comes back again a couple minutes later, and she's still trying to get her bearings. Okay, what's going on here? She had dropped her coffee down the stairs. Like from the top stair. All the way down the stairs. And she was going to sit down, but somebody else in the class was like, "no, you can't just leave it there," then she was like, "I tried to clean it up, and still, it's everywhere." He said, "I'll go with you." And a couple of other people are like, it's going to take 2 people. Half the class ended up leaving. They went, and they cleaned up the coffee, and they all came back. I just thought it was this really nice moment. Some people were just happy to get out of the classroom for 5 minutes. But they did, in fact, clean up the stairs and, you know, I think they were really supportive of each other. This person came in, and she was having a hard time. It sucks, coffee is just suddenly everywhere. It's not even like you drop it a little bit. Like it was a huge mess. It always stuck with me. It was a really touching moment where folks were looking out for each other and willing to help out.

Columnas: *What is one word that you would use to describe the honors program for our students, the general community? And why?*

Professor Farber: I think engaged. Actually, I think back to the class that I was just talking about. It was our 1st semester. I think maybe 6 of them ran for student government positions. I have students who are talking, they're trying to connect with me. I think it's a common experience: people are doing other things. And they're not just doing them in a silo. They're bringing them into class. They're bringing them to me, they bring them to their classmates. I think that's fantastic.

Columnas: *How do you hope honors students feel when they cross the stage, graduate, and move on?*

Professor Farber: I want them to feel like their time was well spent. I think it's gonna be different for everyone. Sort of what you take away where you're going. Those are all gonna be really, really different. I want them to feel as though they were able to engage in the things that they wanted to do. That they were able to meet people, they were able to develop the skills that are going to be important for them moving forward. Both in terms of their career, but also personally and they feel they've gained relationships with professors, students, staff members. It's so important to go to professor's office hours and make those connections. Professors want to talk. You could go back to that professor years down the line and be like, "you said this one thing, and it stuck with me." And that's a connection well made. I had a guy who, after class, would come in and chat. Most of the time we'd talk about baseball. He'd happen to be in the library and he'd pop in and we'd talk. Then he graduated, I hadn't seen him for maybe 3 or 4 years, and out of the blue, I got a message. "I'm going to be in Waltham. You want to get coffee?" So we caught up, and he was just finishing up law school. It was a great connection. Everyone likes to talk about themselves. Professors are happy to talk with students. That's why we're here. And so yeah, I think those opportunities to develop those relationships are really, really important.

MICHAEL QUINN - ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT *(Continued from page 12)*

like that. I'm not teaching political courses, so it's not like there's political discussions, but sometimes people start talking about something, and it'll be kind of far off, you know what I mean? You're like, yeah, they're online looking at a whole bunch of conspiracy theory stuff. So you just talk to them, and you give your perspective, but you can't change somebody, it's not my job to change what somebody thinks. I can only give them my view. Encourage people to learn. In the end, it's sort of like how I do advising. I don't tell people how to live their lives. I try to hear and help them try to figure that out for themselves. I don't try to go around telling people you're wrong about that. For political things, when people get down to things that are political or religious or anything like that, people could be on any side they want. It is a matter of beliefs at that point. And beliefs are beliefs. You gotta respect people's beliefs. I mean, I always try to say, if someone can guess who I vote for or my politics, then I've done a bad job. They should never know my politics. They should never know my politics, because now I've made my position clear, and now people won't feel free to express themselves. So I disagree when I see people getting overly political because now you just shut people down. I want somebody, wherever they are on the spectrum, far right, far left, whatever, to feel comfortable.

Columnas: *What advice would you give to honor students who are trying to get something out of the program?*

Professor Quinn: I'd say don't waste the opportunity. There's a lot of opportunities. There's opportunities to actually get to know your faculty members. They want to get to know you. These people want to talk to you, get to know you. This opportunity is to take part in various things, like being part of Columnas. That is an opportunity. And you could have just said, no, I'm going to do something else and not care. You wouldn't have gotten the growth experience you've gotten from doing this. Everything is a growth experience. Sometimes you do it for a semester, or a year, or 3 years, and sometimes it works out, sometimes it doesn't, but you grow from every single one of those experiences. You need to have experiences. People who sit in their room playing video games aren't getting anything. They have to get out there, be amongst people, and get the experiences, because it's an opportunity. You want to not get to know anybody? You can go to a state school. You can be ignored for half the price.

Columnas: *What is your favorite memory that you have with an honors student or the honors program?*

Professor Quinn: I've known a lot of great students over the years. I work with one of them now. She was my honors student when she was younger. She went to UNC, the same place I went, got a PhD, came back, and now she's a full professor here. That's very rewarding, but when I think about, like, impact, I always like to tell young faculty that you have more impact than you realize. Things you do that might not seem big to you might be big to other people. It also kind of goes along with always doing the decent things. I remember I was at an honors dinner, and I was talking to a student who was graduating and his mom came up to me. She was almost in tears. She was like, what you did for my son, it just meant so much to us. It was a really great moment. The thing is, I don't remember what I did for him. I remember he had some tough times, and I was just kind of there for him helping him out, but, it was stuff that just seemed to me like you do the decent thing and help people out. It was just something you do in your day. But, things you just do in your day can make so much impact. They can be huge for somebody else. It's one thing you learn the longer you're doing this job is to be more relaxed about things. Things happen in people's lives, and whether they turn something in on a Tuesday or Wednesday is not the end of the world. You don't know all the crap that's going on in people's lives. You have to be forgiving about things. You have to put the welfare of them as a human being first because your class, as it turns out, is not the most important thing in their life. Their life is the most important thing in their life. Like I tell my FDS dudes, you can always come to me for advising even after you graduate. You either care about people in this life, or you don't. And caring does not have an expiration date.

Columnas: *How do you hope honor students feel when they graduate?*

Professor Quinn: That you matter. You should feel like you matter, that you matter to us, and it mattered that you were here. That's how I want people to feel. I always tell people, never to forget, that it's great to get high grades and all that kind of success, but that's not why you're valuable. You have inherent values as a human being. You carry that with you wherever you go. And no matter what happens, through the ups and downs in your life, you always carry that value inside of you. So, that's how I want them to feel.

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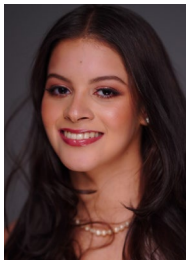

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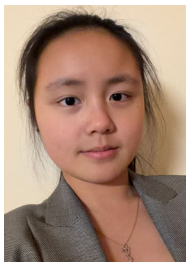

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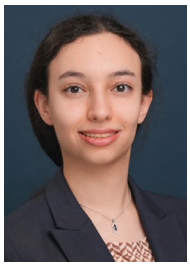

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