

# COLUMNS

The Honors Program Newsletter at Bentley University ■ Spring 2016



**BENTLEY**  
UNIVERSITY

Managing Editors:  
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## UNCOVERING BENTLEY'S PAST

### Bentley Professor Plays Detective to Discover the History of the University *By Jennifer Wright*

“The more you know about the past, the more it brings the present to life.”

This is the drive behind Associate Professor of History Clifford Putney's current project: a book containing Bentley University's history since its founding in 1917. It is an ambitious project he began in December 2010, and the end is drawing near, as he aims to finish before the centennial in 2017.

Professor Putney is the first to attempt a complete history of Bentley. The university published a book of photos for the 75th anniversary and Associate Professor of Natural and Applied Sciences, Greg Hall, included a long article discussing the policy changes over the years. However, in his book, Professor Putney is attempting to “delve into people's personal backgrounds, the history of the campus, the buildings – trying to flesh out the bones a little bit.”

It's been a difficult process. With Bentley's move from Boston to Waltham in 1968, and having gone several years without an archivist,

many records have been lost. Fortunately, former Sociology Professor Tony Kimball started a similar project in the 1990s and still had all of the archives he had dug up at the time, which he passed off to Professor Putney.

Other professors also proved useful to the project, with many leaving him their records upon retirement. Today Professor Putney's office is covered floor to ceiling with boxes of news clippings and old books, showing just how vast his research has been.

Professor Putney also referenced the trustees' minutes a great deal to

construct the historical record, but the richest source of information he's gleaned has been in the form of oral interviews. To date he has completed over one hundred, interviewing those who witnessed Bentley as it experienced some major changes, such as becoming a college, welcoming female students, moving to Waltham, and incorporating the liberal arts.

With the help of several students, he interviewed anyone who came across his path, including people who attended Bentley University as far back as the 1930s, and professors who taught in the 1940s. Though these oral interviews give great insight to the times, Professor Putney primarily relied on extensive research to provide the fullest picture possible.

“People's memories are not totally reliable,” he admits. “You ask people about a particular event, you get all



**Jennifer Wright**

PHOTO BY CHRIS COINT



Clifford Putney

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# COMMEMORATING DAVE

## Professor Carhart's Lasting Legacy on Campus *By Anthony Romaniello*

The Bentley University Honors Program provides its students with numerous unique opportunities. These opportunities include, but surely are not limited to, smaller classes, extensive exposure to different career and networking opportunities, and group outings into Boston to view top Broadway plays and other events.

However, a resource that we as students often overlook is the amazing professors that make this program possible. These remarkable professionals dedicate endless amounts of time and energy to ensure that we can all reach our full academic and professional potentials. As such, it is critical that we take a moment every once in a while to recognize these professors who go far above and beyond in teaching.

Professor David Carhart, known widely as "Dave" to his students, is one professor who has dedicated an innumerable amount of time to the betterment of students throughout this campus, especially those within the Honors Program. After a short stint in the Army, Professor Carhart completed his undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina and went on to receive both a Master's degree and a PhD at George Washington University. With a desire to go into higher education, Professor Carhart began his search for a full-time teaching position at several prestigious universities, and, as luck would have it, he was in the area when a small private business school known as Bentley College had an open position in its Mathematics

department. The rest, they say, is history in the making when in 1981, Professor Carhart joined the esteemed ranks of the Bentley teaching staff.

During his tenure at Bentley, Professor Carhart has been

involved in significant initiatives on campus, including chairing the Mathematics Department and helping develop many new math courses offered here at Bentley, including Mathematics of Sports and Case Studies in Math, which until recently were offered exclusively in the Honors Program. He was a crucial part of the vote that created the Bentley Honors Program and helped shape its successful inception. Dave has taught a number of courses in the Honors Program and advised dozens of senior Honors capstone projects over the years, probably holding the record among faculty for projects supervised. As a testa-

ment to his dedication as an adviser to honors students and their capstone projects, he won the Gregory J. Hall Adviser of the Year Award in 2014. Typical of Dave's experience in the classroom and as a capstone adviser, the recognition "demonstrates exceptional dedication to the research and learning processes, provides exceptional motivation and inspiration to the student, and pushes the limits of knowledge and understanding of the student."

Well noted for his exceptional teaching skills, he was named one of the first Wilder Professors at Bentley. This prestigious designation included grant money and was given to select professors here to help better the quality of education at Bentley through the development of other professors' teaching skills. With such an engaging presence in the classroom, it should not come as a surprise that Professor Carhart's classes are nearly indescribable experiences. He has an ability to make important topics stick, and truly helps his students gain a strong grasp on even the most difficult of concepts. As I learned by taking his class, his intentions have been, from day one, to see the success of his students. They may have to endure some of his classic corny humor from time to time, but it is just part of the fun that shapes the learning experience in his classroom.

With the backdrop of his storied contributions to Bentley and his students, Professor Carhart plans on retiring after the spring semester of 2017. While this is a major loss for both the students and the Bentley community, he, more than anyone on this campus, deserves this well-earned break. If you see him around campus, wish him luck on beginning this new and exciting chapter of his life. If you have not had the opportunity to take a course with Professor Carhart, I would highly recommend that you not miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Professor Carhart has, by every measure of the word, had a very prosperous career as a teacher, but above all else he has had a positive influence on all of his students, and significantly contributed to the success of the Honors Program.

I would like to take this opportunity to send a formal thank you to Professor Carhart for all you have done for this school. You will surely be missed!

*Anthony Romaniello '18 is a finance major*



Prof. Carhart accepting the 2014 Advisor of the Year award, with student research award winners.

# DESIGNER BABIES

## The Ethics of Human Genetic Engineering *By Maria Alejandra Ruiz*

As we slide deeper into the twenty-first century, the idea of a perfect “designer baby” has gone from Hollywood-style science fiction to an impending reality.

The eradication of fatal and nonfatal diseases and the possible enhancement of basic and infinitely complex human traits are at the center of an ongoing bioethical debate. Given the numerous enhancements and possibilities in human genetic engineering, is it ethical to genetically modify and/ or enhance human babies?

The Bentley University Honors Program requires its senior members to develop an individual capstone research project as a culminating experience before graduation. During each fall and spring semester, senior students and their advisers are hard at work researching, either independently or through a small-themed seminar course. As a senior, in the fall of 2015 I chose to enroll in the seminar course due to the invaluable structure and deadlines set by Professor Johannes Eijmberts, as well as the interesting topics that would be covered.

The general theme of the course was “business, science, and technology.” Professor Eijmberts encouraged students to select a current, relevant issue or topic that did not necessarily fall within their major or area of study. As an Economics-Finance major, I had considered developing my research paper based on financial modeling or monetary economics. The course, however, encouraged me to go beyond finance or economics and to consider research topics such as NASA exploration, fracking, climate change, immunotherapy and human genetic engineering.



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I chose to embark on a research paper regarding human genetic engineering and the ethical implications of creating so-called “designer babies.” The recent developments in

biotechnology and genetic engineering and the ongoing bioethical debate on human gene editing led me to the fundamental question that was central to my honors capstone project: “Given the numerous advancements and possibilities in human genetic engineering, is it ethical to genetically modify and/or enhance human babies?”



**Maria Alejandra Ruiz**

Human genetic engineering consists of introducing foreign DNA into a human in order to specifically alter its genetic structure. That can range from preventing or curing a disease, to enhancing basic human traits such as eye color, sex, intelligence, and even voice pitch. Those who oppose any tampering with the human genome fear that human genetic engineering is going a step too far, and that it might lead us to medical catastrophes and an unequal world in which “designer babies” are perceived as superior to “genetically weak” individuals. On the other hand, simply tweaking the genetic structure of unborn babies can also lead to healthier, longer, and more productive human lives.

Human genetic engineering is becoming increasingly feasible and possible due to recent developments in the biotechnology field. A new gene-editing technology known as CRISPR/Cas9 can precisely snip out a diseased mutation and replace it with healthy DNA. The United Kingdom recently approved mitochondrial replacement, a technique that transfers the nucleus, where the genetic instructions for making a person are stored, from the egg of a woman with mutant mitochondria to a donor egg containing healthy mitochondria. About one in 5,000 babies worldwide are born with mitochondrial DNA mutations that cause disease in vital organs such as the muscles, the heart and the brain. Scientists believe that we are merely decades, if not years, away from successfully genetically modifying babies, curing and preventing not just mitochondrial diseases, but a wide range of genetic diseases.

The main goal of my honors capstone project was to answer the question of whether most Americans support human genetic modification to eradicate, cure and/or

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# THE HAUNTING OMNIPRESENCE OF ISIS IN THE 2016 ELECTION

## Foreign Policy and the Main Presidential Candidates

By Priya Varatharajan

Few could have predicted that a violent government response to a peaceful protest against Syria's President Assad in the spring of 2011 would have the capacity to mobilize frustrated civilians into the Free Syrian Army. Amidst the ensuing chaos came ISIS, a radical militant organization boasting a caliphate of 35,000 square miles that split from al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's Syrian branch.



TONELLOPHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Having displaced millions, their recent attacks in Paris, Beirut, and alleged involvement in the recent San Bernardino mass shooting confirm that their influence is no longer purely Middle Eastern. Recent polls show that voters' primary concern is terror; ISIS has overtaken the importance of taxes, healthcare, gun control and other domestic concerns. Republicans and Democrats have seldom agreed, but it is clear that foreign policy is dominating like never before, and isolationism cannot be on any candidate's cards. As we move deeper into the presidential race, we find a variety of views on the scope of the problem and solutions from the candidates. Here is a snapshot of the main candidates' views from their election websites, as of press time.

### THE REPUBLICANS

#### Donald Trump

Trump is a proponent of a unilateral war, where the U.S. sends its troops and intelligence to attack ISIS's oil fields and infiltrate their banking system, blocking their financing. Trump believes that ISIS's bankruptcy will end recruitment, since a major source of their appeal is their \$700 monthly salary to otherwise unemployed fighters. As well, Trump calls for the U.S. to allocate their resources to constructing a safe zone in Syria, helping lower the number of refugees. His stern immigration policy includes not only a ban on all refugees and subsequent deportation of existing approved refugees, but also a total ban on non-citizen Muslims entering the country.

#### Ted Cruz

Cruz's strategy is uniquely devoid of funding the Syrian rebels. Instead, Cruz believes that the U.S. should help Syrian rebels develop their own chemical weapons to counter Assad's. Cruz's strategy also emphasizes aiding Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Kurds instead of trying to keep Baghdad from sinking. He also expressed interest in having the United Nations validate a coordinated response condemning Assad. In addition, his stringent refugee policy is based on his 2015 Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act, which

barred refugees, apart from the Christian Yazidis and Assyrians, from entering the warzone for three years. He further states that even U.S. citizens who aid a fellow citizen in defecting to ISIS territory should have their citizenship revoked.

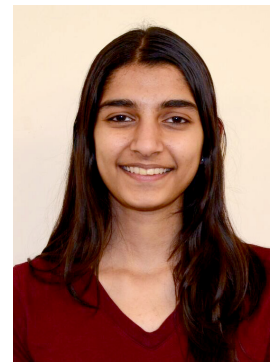


PHOTO BY MATIAS ANDRADE-CABESES

Priya Varatharajan

### THE DEMOCRATS

#### Hillary Clinton

Clinton calls for a military alliance and airstrikes with broader targets with both the West and Middle East. However, while declaring ISIS the most threatening terrorist organization to ever exist due to its systematic online recruitment, Clinton believes that conflicts in Libya and Yemen should not be forgotten among dissention in the Levant countries of Syria, Turkey, and Iraq. Infiltrating ISIS would require using expert Arabic speakers who understand the culture and religion and recognize that the region is being run by revolutionaries who deftly employ charisma and coercion together over rational-legal legitimacy. It is of particular emphasis to avoid following the Bush administration's controversial appointment of former Dutch ambassador Paul Bremer as leader of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq following the war. Clinton also believes that 65,000 Syrian refugees should be accepted into the U.S. after a thorough screening process.

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# ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

A Reflection on Columnas's Success *By Victoria Rapisarldi*

The Latin word *columnas* translates to “columns” or “pillars” which are known for their support of a structure. The Honors Program newsletter shares this appropriate name through its utilization as a platform to support the achievements of honors students as well as the Bentley Honors Program.

The newsletter “celebrates intellectual curiosity, highlights the achievements of those within and around the program, and underscores the importance of service, culture and community.” *Columnas* recognizes and shares the four pillars upon which the Honors Program and its students are guided: *Excellentia* (merit), *sapientia* (wisdom), *integritas* (integrity) and *latitudo* (breadth).

*Columnas* was founded in the fall of 2012 by the director of the Honors Program, Professor Aaron Jackson as a way of external outreach, with the help of the Marketing and Communications Department. When asked about the motivation behind its creation, Jackson responded, “It is something I think is important to the visibility of the Honors Program and as Director, the responsibility is for me to make sure that what the best and brightest are doing is highlighted and celebrated.”

Currently, two honors students manage the newsletter and are responsible for developing future articles and authors, as well as seeing the articles through the editing process. The most interesting part about the newsletter is that current students, alumni, and even faculty members propose ideas they are passionate about and craft an original piece that engages readers. The editors and writers remain in contact throughout the editing process and the final product is truly a collaborative effort.



Honors Program Director Aaron Jackson accepting the first place newsletter award from NCHC president Barry Falk.

Through the past few years, the Honors Program has gained more recognition on campus among the student body and has extended to a point where professors have taken a greater interest in becoming involved. After reading the spring 2015 issue of *Columnas*, Professor Christian Rubio recommended submitting the newsletter to the national

competition for honors newsletters, sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council. The judges looked for consistency across multiple issues regarding formatting and style, as well as the inclusion of content that is interesting, relevant and conveys a message that coincides with the program's mission.



Victoria Rapisarldi

In November of 2015, *Columnas* was presented with the award for first place in the student, electronic division out of a total of 19 submissions. This was exceptional news for the program! After just its first year of submission, it beat DePaul University which had won three years in a row. When hearing about the exciting news Professor Rubio explained:

“*Columnas* caught my attention as soon as I opened it. As a former Honors Program director at another institution, I have seen my share of newsletters and unlike others, *Columnas* is easy to read and follow. More importantly, it contains a wide range of topics and what I call voices, from alumni to faculty to different types of students. I knew as soon as I finished reading it that it would stand out when compared to the rest of honors newsletters. That is the reason I suggested that we enter the national competition. To be honest, I was very excited to hear we won, but not surprised given the quality of *Columnas*.”

Personally, as a former editor of the newsletter, I look forward to the publication of *Columnas* every semester. Bentley students are diverse, so each article that is published is unique and sheds light on the incredible students and faculty involved in the Honors Program. It amazes me to see the achievements of the honors students at Bentley and I am lucky to be able to call them my classmates and colleagues. This award draws positive attention to the accomplishments of Honors Program students as well as the importance of the program itself and its place in the Bentley community.

As for the future of the newsletter, the primary template will remain the same with five to six different articles per semester. The content of the articles will continue to

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# KEEPING YOUR HEAD ABOVE WATERS

Diving into Sophomore Year as a Varsity Athlete *By Juan Quiroga Vargas*

Going to college can be intimidating. Not only because of the shift that one experiences along the food chain - high school senior to college freshman - but simply because one is entering a system with unknown dynamics.

For many, high school means playing a variety of roles in student organizations, participation in athletics, maintaining excellent grades, being prom queen or king, and getting plenty of sleep every night. From a college perspective, these accomplishments sound laudable and nostalgic, but also can be unworkable at the university level. In the midst of all the responsibilities - both actual and self-imposed - that students face in college, there are a series of decisions, sacrifices and efforts that have to be made. In general, individuals are aware of their own capacities as well as their goals, but often times people drive themselves to excessive levels of exertion to simultaneously



fulfill various goals. This can have some negative impacts; but the greater the challenge, the greater the reward.

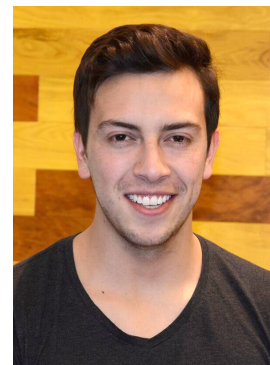
My parents say that I learned how to swim before I learned how to walk, and they constantly retell the story (my dad in laughter and my mom in anger) of how, when I was just a

couple of months old, my dad dropped me in a small tank, and then I swam up to the surface, smiled, and asked him to do it again. I have no memories of this episode, but since then, the vast majority of my memories revolve around being in the water, which is more than understandable given my background as a swimmer.

Coming to Bentley as an international freshman, I had no idea what the recruitment or walk-on processes were for varsity teams. I thought that if I showed up during first week, talked to the coach, and told her what my events and my times were, I would be allowed onto the team. I was wrong. Mary Kay, or MK as she is known, as coach, was more than happy to welcome me onto the team, however, she made it clear that I was obligated by NCAA rules to submit a series of medical documents in order to start swimming. As a foreign student, these documents would take months to acquire yet had to be turned in within a couple of weeks. Despite my desires to swim competitively, it was at that point that I decided against swimming as a freshman.

Time went by and freshman year ended as quickly as it had begun, but with success: I had adjusted to my new college life, my grades were great, and I was involved. But being out of the water was something that had weighed on me all year, which is why I was determined to join the swim team as a sophomore.

Back for my second year, I joined the team, eager to return to the athletic life I missed. As the year progressed and the challenges of sophomore year arose, being a varsity athlete seemed to be an overwhelming commitment at times. I was trying to juggle many academic and campus commitments I was involved in and be a social person at the same time! In the end, this resulted in extremely limited free time. While I cannot say that sophomore year is the hardest year at college, I can confirm that it is much harder than freshman year, and for me, it was undoubtedly more so because of athletics.



Juan Quiroga Vargas

In high school, swimming was an everyday activity that, despite requiring a lot of time and effort, I found to be manageable and rewarding. In college however, the nights spent studying for accounting (arguably the hardest course at Bentley) combined with practices starting at sunrise, on top of the fatigue from a weekend on RA duty made being an athlete a draining experience. Throughout the season, my athletic high school phantom continually challenged my performance, leading to exhausting mental showdowns between myself and my doppelganger. Nevertheless, having pushed through my first swim season as a varsity athlete during my sophomore year was more worthwhile than I had foreseen.

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## UNCOVERING BENTLEY'S PAST *(Continued from page 1)*

different perspectives, some of which are just diametrically opposed. You have to make an authorial decision based on the evidence you have. What's the most likely scenario based on all of the testimonials?"

He compares the process to detective work – an anecdote may give him another name to hunt down, or a news clipping will shed light on a story he has heard.

For Professor Putney, this detective work has been a passion of his for years. Though he first went to Harvard Divinity School to become a minister like his father, he switched paths and went to Brandeis University for a PhD studying muscular Christianity (the combination of athleticism and religion). He then went just across town to start as an adjunct at Bentley in 1995. Today, he spends his days writing and teaching history full-time. His courses vary widely, covering topics such as the history of Boston, the Civil War, colonial American history and world history.

His interest in history came from a love of stories. "I think history is, in many ways, just a more sophisticated version of telling stories. I've always been curious about why things are as they are, why certain buildings exist, why certain places developed, and history gives you the chance to delve into that and find out what led to the creation of things."

Now Professor Putney hopes to use his passion to tell the story of Bentley. He thinks it will surprise many people, especially more recent students who may not be aware of the richness of Bentley's past. In the beginning "it was a very bare-bones school. And there were a lot of schools like Bentley – private business schools all over the place in Boston. Bentley is very unusual in that it survived. And it did so because the founder made it a stand-alone school... he decided he wanted it to outlive him so he set it up as an independent school in 1948 with a board of trustees."

This founder was, of course, Harry Bentley, whom Professor Putney speaks of like an old friend. "I [originally] assumed that Mr. Bentley was a button-down, dry kind of guy," he says, "but in fact he was incredibly dynamic as a teacher, and was very eccentric. He was an athlete – I think my favorite story is that during his lunch break he would go to Boston Common and stand on his head (He was a gymnast.!)"

This new book will shed light on the university's past, but also serve as a glimpse into the future of Bentley. "History is the best blueprint we have for how to proceed in the future," Professor Putney says. "And the fact that Bentley has, for decades, made the right steps is a good indicator that we will continue to make the right steps in the future."

*Jennifer Wright '16 is a Marketing major*

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## DESIGNER BABIES *(Continued from page 3)*

prevent disease. Driven by the assumption that public and scientific opinion constitutes an important factor in the regulation and control of clinical research in the United States, I attempted to predict the future of human genetic engineering policy by analyzing the public outlook. I gathered sample data by distributing a survey to Bentley University undergraduates in November 2015.

Qualitative, quantitative and correlational analysis of the survey and from external data sources led to the following conclusion: Most Americans

do support human genetic modification for the purposes of eradicating, curing and/or preventing hereditary diseases but firmly reject human genetic enhancement for "designer babies"—signaling a clear distinction between the two for future policy. Historically, scientific and public outlook have had a strong influence on the regulation of medical techniques and research in the United States. Hence, the government is most likely to allow strictly regulated human genetic engineering research and to approve the clinical use of mitochondrial replacement techniques in the

near future.

The semester-long capstone project led me to develop an educated opinion on the timely and controversial topic of human genetic engineering. I found the Honors Program's culminating project to be a uniquely fulfilling experience that demanded my full commitment and dedication while promoting excellence and academic growth.

*Maria Alejandra Ruiz '16 is an Economics-Finance and LSM Global Perspectives double major.*

## THE HAUNTING OMNIPRESENCE OF ISIS IN THE 2016 ELECTION *(Continued from page 4)*

### Bernie Sanders

Sanders' strategy juxtaposes destroying ISIS through a multilateral military alliance with attacking the roots of radicalism by using resources to thwart online recruitment. Having proudly opposed both the first Gulf War and the Iraq War, Sanders interestingly strays from isolationism by echoing public sentiment that the U.S. should not act single-handedly. He would also support religious freedom abroad, protecting the population that is susceptible to radicalization. In addition, he believes that at least 10,000 refugees should be admitted into the U.S., but that the Arab

states and mainland Europe also have a moral responsibility to accept refugees.

One thing that all can agree on is that this is an incredibly complex problem, and whoever wins the next presidential election will likely face a foreign policy final exam at the beginning of his or her semester of monumental proportions. Unlike in my classes, with this issue there is no extra credit, and there may not even be any right answers to the exam.

*Priya Varatharajan '19 is an Economics-Finance major*

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## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT *(Continued from page 5)*

showcase the amazing talents and experiences shared by honors students and the broader community. However, future editions may evolve to introduce new features and short pieces further highlighting the accomplishments of students past and present. As the caliber of honors stu-

dents at Bentley continues to rise, this newsletter will continue to follow in their success and share their journey.

*Victoria Rapisardi '17 is an accounting major, and previous managing co-editor of Columns*

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## KEEPING YOUR HEAD ABOVE WATERS *(Continued from page 6)*

In the end, we all have the power to decide the things we do; however, we are reciprocally shaped by these actions to the extent that we engage in them. As a student, I made the conscious decision to become an athlete, but doing so partly defined who I was as a sophomore. Clearly, being a varsity athlete at Bentley is not easy, especially for honors students who naturally aim to excel at everything and tend to have many commitments. Consequently, the challenges of returning to the pool were more strenuous than I had expected, but they ultimately served to form me into a more organized, strong-willed and determined college student. Now, as sophomore year comes to an end and our season

is officially over, I am confident that the efforts of being a swimmer were absolutely worth it. After all, becoming part of a team expanded my circle of acquaintances, friends and supporters. It meant having a group of people that pushed through practices with me and cheered me on at races; a group that stuck together and made every painful stroke worth more than the previous one. A group that made going to the pool everyday a worthwhile experience, and made me stronger physically and mentally.

*Juan Quiroga Vargas '18 is a Corporate Finance and Accounting major, and a member of the Student Honors Council*

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### Editors



*Katherine Hidchenko '18 is an information design and corporate communication major and managing co-editor of Columns.*



*Katie Vadakin '18 is a finance major and managing co-editor of Columns.*



We are pleased to recognize United Technologies Corporation for its generous support of the Honors Program and academic excellence at Bentley University.

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