The JKW School of Honors has relocated this summer to a new space in Honors Hall per President Walter’s decision. Now we share a building by the Paramus Road (take a right towards the Orchard Hills Golf Course) with Phi Theta Kappa. The new location, at a distance from the main campus buildings, has a large Honors Conference Room, and a comfortable Honors Lounge with sofas, computers and WiFi. There is going to be a vending machine with snacks and the water fountain will be repaired. It takes about five minutes to get there on foot and a bare minute by car. The large parking lot is a good option for the day, however.

However, with those cons come the pros. The School of Honors has never worked with PTK as closely as they are today and the calendar of events will show the extent of our collaboration. We also have a new, dedicated and resourceful Director and a full-time Honors Assistant, Mrs. Wendy Dodge, who also works for Phi Theta Kappa, the Honor Society. Mrs. Dodge can answer students’ questions and help them resolve their issues over the phone and via e-mail. You can visit the Honors Office at any time, too. The Student Lounge is quiet and perfect for studying, reflection and meetings. It is hoped that once the students find the Lounge, they will return time and again! Everyone is welcome to join us in Honors Hall, and we look forward to meeting you there. AK

A Photo Contest: Where Do Honors Students Come From?

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO AND WIN A PRIZE!

“We want to know where Honors students come from. Everybody comes from a different place: a town, a family, or landscape. Send your best picture from the place you come from by e-mail to Stephanie Franco at stephanie61593@gmail.com by Friday, November 15th.”

All submissions will be reviewed by an Art professor and a small committee. Top submissions will receive prizes and those photos will be printed and displayed at the college, and all students will receive a Certificate of Participation. All submissions will be considered for inclusion in a slide show. SF
Meet Brandon Reis, the Honors Association President

Hi Brandon! So what are you going to do for the Honors Association this year? My goal for the Honors Association this semester is to create as much exposure about the School of Honors as possible, and to create great opportunities for its students. There have been many changes made across the college over the past year, and with a fresh school year now in full swing, I want to make sure that our presence on campus is not only existent, but also stronger than ever. We, as Honors students, represent Bergen’s brightest students, and it is our responsibility to show our peers and community how extraordinary we are, not only through excellent grades, but also in what we do to give back.

Awesome. What applicable attributes and experiences do you have? I would say that one of my most important attributes is life experience; I graduated high school in 2006, and didn’t come to Bergen until 2011. At first, I thought I didn’t belong here. But now, I have many friends, and have made some great memories on campus.

Meet Elsin Jamaj, the Honors Association Vice-President, online at facebook.com/bergenhonors

Meet Dr. Maria Makowiecka, the New Director of the JKW School of Honors

Hi Agop,
You have asked me to tell you about my career at Bergen and the short answer is that I have had much fun working at Bergen since I came on board in 2000. The longer answer is that I have been actively involved in the life of the college: with my colleagues, I have created and directed such programs as The Literary Arts Series, the Interdisciplinary Seminar Series in Women’s Studies, the School of Honors Recognition Day, the School of Honors Conference. I co-directed the Honors Program from 2007-2010, and the Beacon Conference at Bergen in 2008, so I am somewhat of an expert at it. (Smile)

My vision is to make the Honors community even more closely-knit. It is well-known that Honors students do best when they receive excellent instruction in a small class setting, but it is supremely important for them, I mean for you, to get Honors advisement and communicate with your Honors professors throughout the semester, and also attend the Honors Association events to stay informed and to make friends. One can’t have too many friends, yes? Facebook and such are great to stay in touch, but meeting other students in a room, actually talking to them and sharing ideas is precious.

Come to the Honors Lounge, which is a quiet place where you can spend time with others. Form study groups, be challenged to do a special project to make the world a better place, and have fun! Time is always now. MM

PS. And yes, see me about the Honors Challenge! Stephanie Franco has done it – see her Photo-Contest project on the front page.
Steven W. Chung continues to demonstrate his dedication to our community. Steven served as President of the Honors Association and became the first student to fund two scholarships: the Steven W. Chung Honors Scholarship through the BCC Foundation, and the Steven W. Chung Poetry Prize through the Academy of American Poets. He graduated in 2012 with the JKW School of Honors Diploma, and obtained a Divisional and Curricular Award in Social Work. He was an active member of Phi Theta Kappa as well.

Steve founded the BCC Honors Alumni Network (HAN) this summer. Steven has attended classes at New York University in Social Work, taken courses at Columbia University to obtain a Human Rights Certificate, and at the New York Film Academy to obtain an Acting for Film Certificate. He has also earned his Professional Certificate in Conflict Management from Sullivan University, a Certificate of Achievement in Effective Communications & Human Relations and Certificate of Achievement in Leadership Training for Managers from Dale Carnegie Training.

Steve Chung, a 21-year-old from Elmwood Park now lives in Bayside, NY, and he is a testimony of determination. After dropping out of high school at the age of 15, he later graduated from a ministry-run high school in 2010 only to discover that his diploma was not accredited. As a result, Steven returned to school to obtain his GED from Bergen in 2011, and proceeded to complete the required course work in two years. Steve will return to Bergen in the spring of 2014 to present at the JKW School of Honors Student Conference.

Thank you for all that you have done for us!! AK

POLITICAL COMMENT: Strike on Syria May Be Constitutional in the US, But Is It Legal According to the International Law?

After the devastating chemical attack on civilians in the Ghouta area outside the Syrian capital of Damascus on August 21, President Barack Obama is pushing for America to intervene with military force. President Obama's primary determination for a strike on Syria is the use of chemical weapons that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad denies having attacked his people with. The United Nations investigation into the use of chemical weapons will be completed within two weeks; however, President Obama has deemed the results unnecessary. Although the UN is limited in its ability to act within Syria due to the veto power of Russia and China, it cannot be dismissed by the United States or the international community. Attacking Syria, despite the grave humanitarian crisis, would be illegal under international law without a resolution from the Security Council or in self-defense; which Security General Ban Ki Moon has made clear.

Now as Congress and the American public are faced with attacking Syria, there is no doubt that we are haunted by our 2003 invasion of Iraq and our past neglect of international law. Additional force cannot definitively resolve the Syrian conflict and may further escalate an already desperate situation. AE
# HONORS ASSOCIATION FALL 2103 CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THU, September 19</td>
<td>MEET AND GREET  Fall Kick-off Pizza Party</td>
<td>SA-120</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30PM</td>
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## OCTOBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WED October 9</td>
<td>Publishing Party for <em>The Bergen Scholarly Journal</em> with The Editor in Chief Maria Ortiz Naretto (Honors and PTK student) and Dr. Jennifer Lyden, Faculty Advisor</td>
<td>C-210</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-1:45PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON October 14</td>
<td>Coat Drive, sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters</td>
<td>Student Center</td>
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<td>1:30-3:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED October 16</td>
<td>Coat Drive, sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters</td>
<td>Student Center</td>
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<td>1:30-3:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU October 17</td>
<td>Seminar in Genocide Studies: Lecture by Dr. Maria Makowiecka, followed by a Panel with Dr. Sarah Shurts, Dr. Ellen Feig, Dr. Thomas LaPointe and Ayah Elsodougi, a student from Sudan.</td>
<td>C-313</td>
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<td>1:45-3:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE October 22</td>
<td>HONORS WEEK: Transfer Workshop with NYU</td>
<td>A-104</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED October 23</td>
<td>HONORS WEEK: Honors Association and Phi Theta Kappa, or Who Is Who</td>
<td>C-316</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU October 24</td>
<td>HONORS WEEK: Diversity in Honors Day/Potluck</td>
<td>C-211</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI October 25</td>
<td>HONORS WEEK: Columbia University – School of General Studies Field Trip</td>
<td>Bus leaves from Parking Lot B</td>
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<td>8:30AM-2:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE October 29</td>
<td>Transfer Workshop with the Columbia University School of General Studies Representative, Diana O'Donnell</td>
<td>S-134</td>
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## NOVEMBER

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THU November 7</td>
<td>JKW School of Honors Open House</td>
<td>Student Center</td>
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<td>9:00AM-7:30PM</td>
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## DECEMBER

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<tr>
<td>WED December 4</td>
<td>Final Exam Study Groups RSVP Giselle <a href="mailto:gmedina60088@me.bergen.edu">gmedina60088@me.bergen.edu</a></td>
<td>C-313 AND C-314</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>THU December 5</td>
<td>Holiday Party</td>
<td>C-211</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30PM</td>
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Newsletter Editor: Agop Kasbarian  
Assistant Editors: Ayah Eldosougi, Michael Nehring  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Maria Makowiecka