Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Honors,

I would very much like to thank all those members of our community that have helped the Honors program grow even more this year.

In particular, we are most grateful to everyone in the Office of Admissions and Office of Academic Advisement for encouraging students to take advantage of the Honors program; to the Registrar's Office for helping students understand the Honors registration process; the Counseling Department for explaining the intricacies of optimal transfer plans; and to the Office of Student Life for supporting Honors students all along. The Department of Public Relations has added even more evocative designs to our promotional posters and brochures, and the Media Technologies and Buildings and Grounds have provided us with excellent support.

Thanks to a formidable effort by Pamela Ricatto, from the Information Technology Department, we have a powerful tool to study the progress of the JKW School of Honors students, and create targeted data searches. Pamela has spent tireless hours solving the puzzle, and I can't overstate how much I appreciate it.

We are grateful to the administration for the generous support, especially the AVP's Office. The Academic departments have been instrumental in giving the Honors program its shape: it takes additional planning to fit Honors courses into the regular course schedules, especially when labs are needed, and we are lucky to have added such new offerings as ACC-100H, BIO-107H, BUS-233H, CHM-262H, and PHY-185H, going forward.

It is my pleasure to report that we have a record of 570 registered seats for the spring of 2015 semester while we are still a month away from it. The Honors team, including the Honors Committee and the Honors Advisory Committee, has worked hard to promote Honors throughout the semester and at the Open Houses, but the high number reflects faculty recommendations, too. Thirty-three professors have recommended ninety-six students for Honors, and over 85% of them qualify for Honors with a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

Many, many thanks to the professors who have made those recommendations: Mark Altschuler, Dorothy Altman, Thomas La Pointe, Christine Foster, Shari Franschman, Bonnie McDougal, Jennifer Lyden, Jean Acken, Tom Woods, Lynda Box, Stacey Balkan, Geoffrey Sadock, Lois Carmichael, Adam Goodell, Jon Yasin, Carol Miele, Mary Ann Hellriegel, Alphonse Dattolo, Lisa Mayer, John Drozd, Kristin Reeves, Lynn Gold, Tall Millet, Pamela Kwartler, Kelly Keane, Ilan Ehrlich, Michael Cantatore, Barbara Sugarman, Michael Patterson, Seamus Gibbons, Susan Lago, Melissa Harwin, Sara Mastellone, and Lawrence Grenner.

HONORS STUDENTS ON CAMPUS
Honors students are actively involved in the life of the college, too, and they work as tutors in the Tutoring Center, 1-2-3 Connect Program, the Turning Point Program, and make contributions through the Honors Association, Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Beta, Sigma Chi, New Jersey Stars, Model UN; they serve in the Student Government Association, and participate in many of the social and academic clubs on campus, and often
serve as club officers.

This fall, 26 NJ Stars and 54 PTK members registered for Honors courses. The numbers are even higher for next spring with 35 NJ Stars and 71 PTK students already on record. We have graduated about one thousand Dual Honors students, Honors and PTK, since 1978, according to the available data. Last May, close to fifty students were recognized with the new Dual Honors Medal Awards, which they proudly displayed at the Commencement. The current Alumna Member of the Board of Trustees is a Dual Honors graduate.

**HONORS ASSOCIATION**

The Honors Association has combined its Executive and Advisory Boards and has worked together on organizing a plethora of academic activities, including the excellent bridge-building "Diversity in Honors" with Rhonda Richardsen from Phi Theta Kappa, Kevin Calle from the Latin American Student Association, Basima Abdelsalam from the Muslim Student Association, Chibuzo Anyanwu from African Student Union, Naomi Eijkenaar from the Torch, Elshama Santana from STEM, Professor Figaro from the Caribbean Club, Professor Di Lauro from the Biology Club, and Zach McDevitt from Bards and Scribes; the Honors Jeopardy, and the usual transfer and scholarship workshops.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Most of the Merit Scholarships have been awarded to Honors students with awards of $1000 to Paola Baez, Naomi Eijkenaar, Isra Eldosougi, Binah Ezra, Elif Karacayir, Vincent Maresca, Ivan Mitevski, Jacqueline Sheriff and Fatima Villaneuva, and an award of $500 to Mark Ellard.

The winner of the 2014 Securing Our Future Essay Contest is Emanuele Cialianno 1st Place (Honors), and Michael Nehring 3rd Place (Honors).

The 2014 Student Government Association Scholarship of $1000 went to Binah Ezra (Honors).

**JKW SCHOOL OF HONORS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD**

In October, Steven Chung, a Dual Honors Graduate, received the first JKW School of Honors Outstanding Honors Alumni Award for creating a JKW School of Honors Alumni Scholarship Fund. Steven believes that Honors students deserve a special recognition in the form of a scholarship, and he has collected part of the endowment from his family and friends, and will solicit more submission from the JKW School of Honors alumni to reach the needed $10,000 mark. Once the goal is reached, one Honors student will be awarded the new scholarship each year.

**STUDENT CONFERENCES NEXT SPRING**

If you have received excellent end-of-term paper, please consider mentoring the students for one the upcoming conferences.

(1) The New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Colloquium will be held on Thursday, March 26, at Montclair U. Have the student send a paper on the topic of gender of 10-13 pages to makowiecka@bergen.edu by February 17, 2015. Three top students we recommend at the college will have a chance to present.

(2) The JKW School of Honors Student Conference, to be held on Friday, April 10, 2015. The CFP will be forthcoming in January with a deadline for submission on March 27, 2015.


The benefits of student conference participation are significant, and they include personal satisfaction, and a permanent academic credit students will be able to claim on their transfer and scholarship applications, and beyond. Four-year colleges notice such accomplishments and give student presenters more consideration.

**SPRING 2015 HONORS COURSES**

Attached please find the Spring Honors Course Brochure, and share it with students if you can.
Please see our Facebook page at http://facebook.com/bergenhonors for event photos, and up-to-date news.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR 2015!!!

Sincerely,

Maria Makowiecka

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