

September 2019

# THE HONORARY



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# JKW HONORS ASSOCIATION

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**ERISA GANELLARI**  
PRESIDENT

THE PROCESS OF INTELLECTUAL DISCOVERY IS YOUR MAP FOR THE FUTURE. AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONORS ASSOCIATION, I ASPIRE TO CULTIVATE A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING ENERGIZED BY COLLABORATIVE WORK AMONG STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS.

**AMIRAH ELAYAN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

I BELIEVE EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART FOR STUDENTS WHO DON'T HAVE THE ADVANTAGES THAT OTHER STUDENTS MIGHT HAVE. YOU CAN BE AN HONOR STUDENT AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.



**JUSTIN DIAZ**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ENSURE THAT I CONTINUE TO INFORM THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT BERGEN OF THE RECENT STRIDES THE H.A. IS ACHIEVING.



**MICHAEL PETRAZZUOLO**  
TREASURER

TO BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN PROMOTING THE SUCCESS OF OUR HONORS STUDENTS, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO COLLABORATE WITH MY TEAM IN CREATING AND COORDINATING FUNDRAISING EVENTS.



**SARAH HARTWIG**  
SECRETARY

IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT BY BRIDGING THE GAP IN COMMUNICATIVE MEANS. IN DOING SO, FOR EVERY MEETING, I RECORD THE MINUTES AND SHARE IT WITH THE REST OF THE BOARD SO THAT ANY INFORMATION MISSED IS RECORDED AND DOCUMENTED FOR FURTHER MEETINGS.



**FRANCESCO LI VALDEZ**  
PUBLICIST

BESIDES ASSISTING THE PRESIDENT, MY ROLE AS PUBLICIST IS TO GAIN EXPOSURE THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AND INFORM STUDENTS OF THE BENEFITS AND EXPERIENCES GAINED THROUGH JKW SCHOOL OF HONORS. MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW US EVERYWHERE!





# INFO SESSION

*By Sarah Hartwig, Secretary*

The JKW School of Honors hosted two Info Sessions in the month of August. These two Info Sessions served to educate any potential honors students about the program and its benefits. For instance, it enables a student to appear as a good candidate to any university including Ivy Leagues.

If students want to study, hold study sessions, or even pass the time with other students the Honors Lounge located in S-347 is open for use! A huge stereotype of Honors classes is that they are difficult or boring. This is not the case because smaller classes allow students to build a strong relationship with their peers and their teachers; therefore, when transferring out to four year universities, the professor's recommendation will be more intimate. Various workshops are offered to students to educate them on how to succeed in Bergen and even in four year universities.

Among other wonderful benefits, the Honors College hosts tours of Ivy Leagues and other universities to assist students in viewing their potential four year universities. All in all, the amount of families and students that attended these events were a success! The Executive Board along with Professor Seamus Gibbons and Mrs. Dolores Piro were ecstatic at the turnout and for educating families and students of a wonderful program with amazing opportunities for the future!



# CLUB DAY

*By Justin Diaz, Editor-in-Chief*

Club Day is an essential day at Bergen Community College in which the students of this school meet other students with similar interests. Consequently, these interests would then manifest into weekly meetings where the students would then use these particular interests to start an agenda which is meaningful and creative.

I was fortunate to go to Club Day where I met many interesting fellow students of mine who had such an immense passion for what they do and would then decide to start a club in order to share this passion with their fellow students. There are many diverse clubs that Bergen Community College has to offer such as the LGBT Club, the STEM Club, the Computer Science Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Economics Club, Dance Club, and etc.

Although I went around looking for what these clubs had to offer, I was fortunate enough to host a table and explain what the Judith K. Winn School of Honors is and what makes it a distinct and vital program. Many students approached our table and had an enthusiastic response when my fellow Board members and I emphasized the scholarship opportunities, academic salons, and college tours. Other students seemed discouraged when I explained the requirements in order to get accepted into this program and seemed extremely wary of the heavier workload that an honors class would require.

As someone who has taken 15 credits of honors classes, I can verify that honors classes do have extra requirements but it is undeniable that these classes are definitely worth the effort. The honors classes are typically smaller classes which means a higher interaction with the professor and fellow students. For example, when I took Honors Intro to Philosophy, one of my classmates organized a study group. This study group helped me immensely in my final. I do not think that a study group or interactions with classmates outside of class are too common in classes that are not honors.

Furthermore, many honors classes require a final paper. What many students outside of Honors do not know is that these final papers could be submitted for the Beacon Conference in order to get a monetary and academic award. This could dramatically help someone in their path to transfer to a four year college of their choice.





# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TRANSFER WORKSHOP

*By Michael Petrazzuolo, Treasurer*

The JKW School of Honors hosted a transfer workshop that focused on the transfer process to Columbia University's School of General Studies. The guest speaker, Ms. Diana Kim, has been a Senior Admission Officer at Columbia University for eight years and the last four years have been dedicated to the admissions of the School of General Studies.

Ms. Kim spoke about the motivation of Columbia students and their eagerness to learn. She elaborated on how Columbia has been able to assimilate the non-traditional student into their student body. The School of General Studies is a branch of Columbia University where non-traditional students, students who have taken a gap in their education or who work full time, are able to obtain the "Columbia Experience." What exactly is different about Columbia's School of General Studies and Columbia College? Ms. Kim stressed that the curriculum offered to both non-traditional and traditional students is the same; however, non-traditional students are given resources to aid their transition and connect them with other students with the same background.

Ms. Kim had covered the application process, ranging from the required materials to the transfer credit policies and spoke about the average accepted transfer student. Aside from the application itself, Ms. Kim wanted to convey who the typical Columbia student was. She stressed that students who want to attend Columbia University are truly passionate about their chosen major, not because of the merit of a Columbia diploma or the potential earnings. She noted that Columbia will continue to hold such transfer workshops with Bergen because the Bergen Community College students, who have attended Columbia, have embodied this mentality. The JKW School of Honors is looking forward to hosting more transfer-oriented workshops in the near future.



# Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Workshop

*By Justin Diaz, Editor-in-Chief*

I had the great fortune to attend the workshop for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship on Monday, September 23. As many other students who aspire to transfer to the school of their dreams and more importantly, without having a severe financial strain, this is the ideal scholarship for anyone who is a student from Bergen. More importantly, it is fundamental to understand this is not any ordinary scholarship. This scholarship carries a value up to \$120,000! As many other students, I had many questions about the requirements for this scholarship and whether I was eligible.

The presenter for this workshop was Won Joon Kang. Won Joon Kang was a Bergen Community College student who was one of three Bergen students out of the 61 recipients in the entire country to receive this prestigious scholarship. Won Joon graduated with a business administration major. However, what makes his story distinctive is that although he graduated with a business degree, he is pursuing a dual major in E- Con philosophy as a bachelor's degree. He did this because he is interested in the ethics of Artificial Intelligence. He believes that the particular degree he is studying for will be a bridge between these two distinctive fields. He transferred to Columbia University with not only the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship but with other scholarships as well. He certainly makes our school proud!

Won Joon Kang's story certainly illustrates the type of student of the committee for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship are looking for. They are not necessarily looking for the student who has participated in the most clubs or the student with a 4.0 GPA (although this is very important), they are looking for a student who has a very concrete idea about what he or she wants to pursue with their life and how they took the necessary steps to reach this plan. For example, Maria De Abreu always dreamt about becoming a doctor. Having this dream, she took the necessary classes in Mathematics and Science curriculum and participated heavily in the school to receive this scholarship to transfer to Stevens Institute of Technology. She is now studying at Thomas Jefferson University getting close to her dream every single day.

Won Joon Kang and Angie Goldszmidt, the PTK administrative advisor, spoke in depth about the requirements for the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. The most important eligibility requirements are :

1. As of Jan. 1, be a current sophomore or a recent graduate (since Spring 2015) of an accredited two year institution.
2. Enrolling in a four year college in Fall '20.
3. Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.5 or above.
4. Demonstrate financial need (under \$95,000).
5. No previous full - time enrollment at a four year college.

*\*There is no citizenship requirement*

Furthermore, the profile of a student who receives the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship are as follows:

- 69% attend a highly competitive four year institution
- **3.84** = community college grade point average
- 93% participate in civic or community service while at community college

The two presenters reiterated again and again about the advantages and opportunities Bergen Community College provides. If a student feels that he or she has not been heavily involved in the school or has volunteered in and out of school, now is the time to do so! Any student who is a PTK student should be fully aware that PTK is always in need of volunteers. Moreover, Bergen Community College had a volunteer fair with representatives from the local area seeking volunteers. The opportunities Bergen Community College offers are endless but a student needs to put in the time to find out about what opportunities there are and what opportunities could work with their schedule. If you have any questions about volunteer opportunities, schedule an appointment with Angie Goldszmidt. The application for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship is online through the Common App, preferably named CommonApp. The application is due November 20, 2019. I will repeat this again. The application is due **November 20, 2019**. This does not mean you submit the application the day of or the day before the application. Plan accordingly! I will list the components of the online application.

- Submit documents:
  - CV/ Resume (required)
  - Official College transcript
  - High School transcript
  - Personal statement (not required)
  - Publication
  - Test Score Requirement
- Two Letters of Recommendations
- Activities and Honors
- College plans
- Writing - three short essays (including the narrative autobiography) and supplements

I will go into depth about the writing requirements. The personal statement is NOT required. However, it is important to note that the personal statement is distinct from the narrative autobiography. This means if one chooses to submit the personal statement, it has to be a different essay from the narrative autobiography. As for the writing supplements for Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship, this is the list that is provided from the PowerPoint slides of the presentation :

“ Narrative Autobiography : This statement should provide information not elicited elsewhere in the application, such as leadership roles, family, educational, philosophical, or other life experiences that have influenced your achievements and career decision. Also include professional and civic activities that you consider important. The narrative should be concise, emphasizing those areas most important to your intellectual development.

The Cooke Scholar community is a thriving group of talented individuals from around the country. What excites you about becoming part of this community? What do you think will contribute to this community?

Our unofficial motto of the Cooke Foundation is “ Think Big, Work Hard, Achieve.” Tell us how you demonstrate any of these characteristics in your life.

Tell us about an academic pursuit that you’ve listed on your resume or in your application, such as an internship or research. How were you selected for the opportunity and what did you hope to learn from the experience? ”



For his closing statement, Won Joon Kang stated the importance of starting early and also to set an earlier deadline for yourself. Instead of finishing the entire application the day before, fulfill each part of the application little by little until you have everything done. Also, although the deadline is **November 20, 2019**. It would be best to have the application done a week before. Furthermore, when the application is finished, print out a pdf of the application and check through it at least five times with the help of professors, advisors, friends, and family members.

Angie Goldszmidt then facetimes Maria De Abreu, a recipient of this scholarship. Maria said that although this scholarship is important, she noted that it would not be wise to put all the eggs in one basket. This means that although it is important to focus on this specific scholarship, it would be smart to look at other scholarships as well. I personally asked Maria what are good websites to apply for scholarships and she provided me as such:

- Cappex.com
- Fastweb.com
- CollegeCentral
- PTK Connect

The application criteria for the scholarship are academic ability, persistence, leadership, and service to others. I understand this scholarship may be daunting. However, the application for this scholarship is **FREE**. The Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship provides up to **\$40,000 per year**. This scholarship can aid a student in their tuition and other necessities such as room and board. Furthermore, the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship provides a graduate scholarship which is \$75,000. This graduate scholarship can be used for a master's degree, medical school, law school or a Ph.D. This means that you have nothing to lose and \$120,000 to gain. Many students will take this opportunity. Will you?

If you have any questions,  
contact: [scholarships@jkcf.org](mailto:scholarships@jkcf.org)





# The JKW School of Honors Book sale

*By Amirah Elayan, Vice-President*

My favorite thing to do is read. I love the way words play out on paper, I love the stimulation that comes with a good book, I love the knowledge that tags on about cultures and languages, the discovery of emotions, the empathy for the characters. There is nothing, to me, better than a good read. Though, a close second is finding new things to read, but the sad truth is that books are often costly, and it is hard to find books for low prices.

With this in mind, I organized the first-ever JKW School of Honors Book Sale, hoping to give students the opportunity to purchase extremely low priced books regardless of their condition. After all, who can resist a good book sale? Romance novel for \$2? Count me in! Mystery book that was originally a \$30 dollar hardcover for only \$4? I'm swooning.

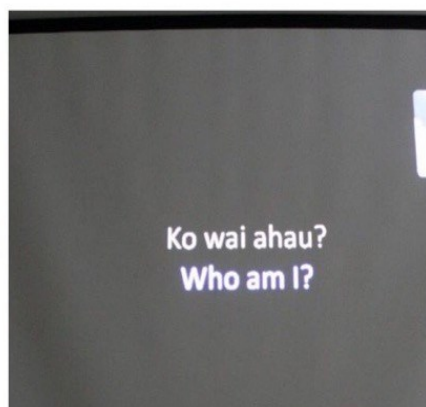
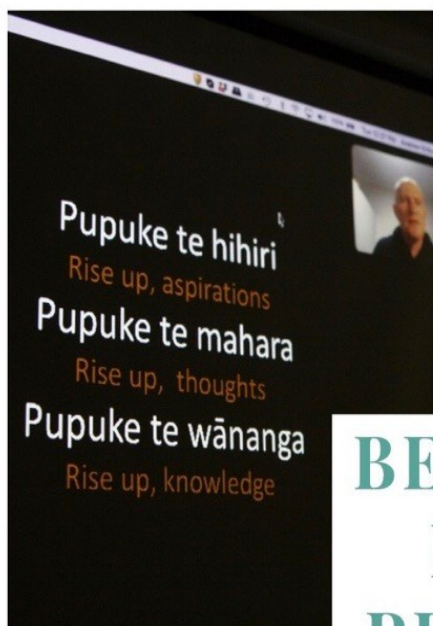
Over the course of the summer, I contacted local libraries about donating to help fundraise money for JKW workshops, scholarships, and other activities we host for students. Although many libraries were not taking donations over the summer and were unable to give; outstandingly, Westwood Library donated about 27 of the 30 boxes I had collected. Some were brand new copies, some had been used for generations, some were just hardly worn. All in all, the books we collected were an impressive range, and suitable for most ages.

After months of combing through, organizing, pricing and getting to know each book, we set out the first 7-10 boxes of books, DVDs and CD's in the student center on October 18, 2019. With few exceptions, everything on the table was priced \$5 and under, with a sale of buy 2 books get 1 free after 12:30pm. We had an outstanding turnout, and want to thank everyone who bought books to help support the School of Honors.

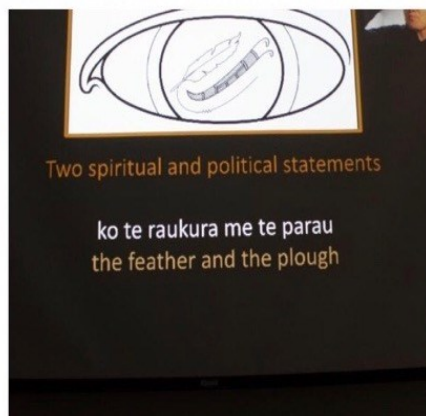
By popular demand, the JKW School of Honors Book sale will be returning on **Thursday, October 10** from **10 AM to 2 PM**, Cash is preferred. Again, all books will be \$5 and under with little to no exceptions.







# BERGEN SALON – INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND WITH PROFESSOR STEPHEN MATTHEWS



*Credited to Francescoli Valdez, Publisher*



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On behalf of the Judith K. Winn School of Honors:

いつてらっしゃい。  
(ITTERASSHAI)

*Have a nice day.*

*(Or)*

*Have a safe trip.*