The Newsletter of the Honors Association

October 16, 2017

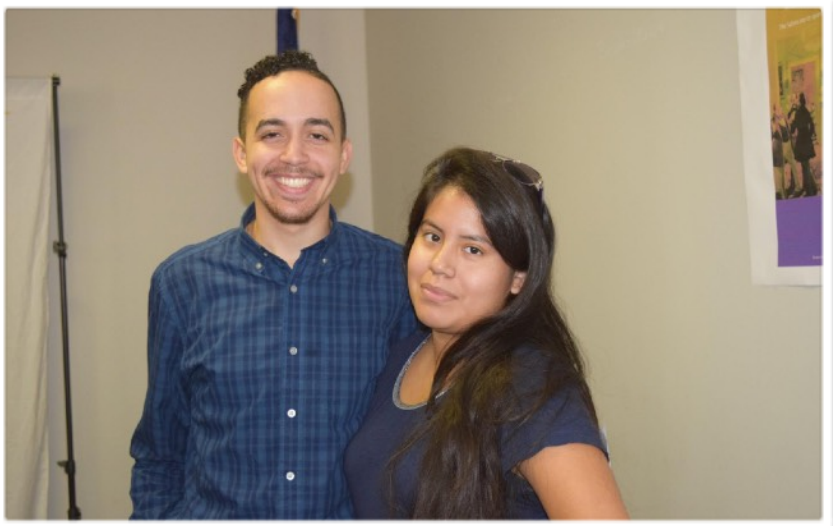
THE HONORARY

Volume 8 Issue 2

Inside This Issue

- *Upcoming Highlighted Events*
- *Meet The New E-Board For Honors Association (p.2)*
- *Bergen Salon Recap (p.3)*
- *Meet Honors Criminology Professor Ms.Farhat (p.4)*

Follow Us @Bergenhonors



Upcoming October Events !

- *Tuesday 17th- Columbia University Transfer Information Workshop: 12:30 pm- 1:30 pm, Room S-134*
- *Wednesday 18th- Drew University Transfer Information Workshop 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm, Room C-313*
- *Tuesday 24th- Bergen Salon II 12:30pm-1:30 pm, Room C-321*

Meet The New E-Board!



Thomas Lolito
President

As president of the H.A, I will be working towards improving the experience of Honors students by encouraging a wider variety of Honors courses and creating new events. I am the primary spokesperson of the H.A. and I am responsible for communicating with the Director of Honors.



Erin Moran
Vice President

As the VP of the H.A, I promote the JKW School of Honors. I handle the external affairs, mainly with other organizations and clubs and work closely with the President. I also oversee all Honors Association events.



Hina Malik
Secretary

As secretary of the H.A, I make sure that communication between all members is efficient, which includes taking down the minutes in every meeting and verifying that we are all on the same page.



Shantelle Guinto
Publicist

My role as publicist is primarily flyer design, social media, and other forms of advertisement for the H.A. I focus on trying to reach as many Honors students as I can so everyone can be included in all H.A. events planned throughout the year. So, feel free to say, “Hi!”



Bryant Gomez
Editor-in-Chief

As the Editor-in-Chief, I am head of the editorial team. My responsibilities include choosing and creating content, writing, editing, designing the newsletter’s layout and overseeing the co-editor position.



Antonio Petrazzuolo
Treasurer

As Treasurer, I oversee the financial plans and budgets of the Honors Association. Along with the team, we create and enact fundraising and funding ideas, as well as promote available scholarships to students.

Bergen Salon I - Historians on Charlottesville

By Shantelle Guinto

Prior to this fall's first Bergen Salon, my only knowledge of anything that happened in Charlottesville was limited to that of social media. Because millions of social media posts are created and uploaded instantaneously, usually without the story's full context, it's easy for people, myself included, to be swayed by them seeing phrases like "white supremacy" and "domestic terrorism," and it made sense that I'd side with those in favor of the removal of Robert E. Lee's statue. Why memorialize and glorify the top general of the Confederacy - a short lived "nation" created to perpetuate and preserve slavery? Like the rest of the things I see on social media, I decided how I felt about the issue, and then kept it moving - giving very little thought as to what any of this would mean from a historian's perspective.

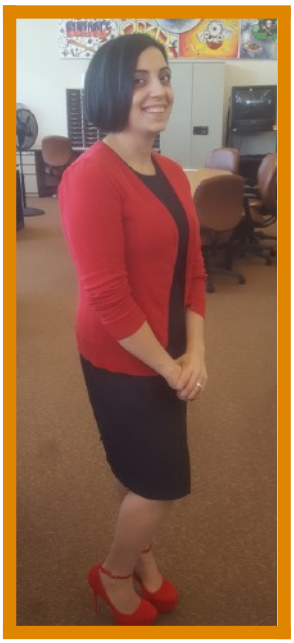
After forming a better understanding of what historians had to say from the discussion led by the presenter, Dr. Sarah Shurts, as well as listening to the compelling arguments made by the attendees of the Salon - all of which revolved around snippets of articles pertaining to Charlottesville, I couldn't help but rethink my position. Gregory S. Bucher's explanation of eliminating statues as "try to force others how to think" wasn't something I could ignore. I still believed that the white nationalists should be condemned for their actions, but I began to question whether or not the removal of the statue was the best, or at least the most responsible way of handling the matter. Some would reason that regardless of what would happen to the statue, those who were prejudice would remain prejudice. This argument brings forward the notion that perhaps, it is better to focus our efforts on something that would bring about more progress. Others may argue that taking down the statue of Robert E. Lee would undermine one of the main reasons as to why studying history is so pertinent. As quoted by George Santayana, "those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

One historian, and former professor, Gregory S. Buscher expressed his preference to leaving Confederate statues where they are, as to not "prevent our descendants from considering them in their own right." One of the biggest issues that people had with moving the statues was altering how future generations would be able to interpret what happened - almost "forcing" or swaying them to think a certain way. It dawned on me that everyone was questioning how and what future generations would think about the Confederacy, but not what they would think about us. However we handled the aftermath of Charlottesville, would also be something that future generations would be able to consider "in their own right." Knowing that, I could only hope that the future generations would take into account what the leader of our discussion, Dr. Sarah Shurts said, which was, "you can't judge the past by present standards."

There were plenty of other arguments and perspectives that were discussed and debated over, either pertaining to the statue itself, or the difference of historical memory and memorialization. This Bergen Salon gave me a lot to think about. I feel as though I left this discussion with more questions than I did answers. I had almost wished that the Salon was longer than an hour so everyone could continue to go back and forth with their ideas until I could come up with an action I felt would be "right." Should the statue be removed or shouldn't it? If it shouldn't, are there different measures that should be taken? What standards would deem one statue removable over another? It was no longer just a question about whether or not General Lee's statue would stay where it was, but also about how much responsibility was behind the answer. It became about understanding change, how the society we live in came to be, and how we'd go forth with what we know.

Criminal Justice is Finally Here: The Honors Association Welcomes Professor Farhat

By Bryant Gomez



The Judith K. Winn School of Honors is expanding their catalog of classes as Criminology makes its grand debut! One of Criminal Justice's leading professor, Mecheline Farhat, who earned her associates from Middlesex County College, her bachelors at Seton Hall University in Criminal Justice, and her Masters from John Jay. She sat down with us to talk about her reasons for teaching Honors and her involvement as faculty advisor for the Student Government Association at BCC.

BG: Well, to start it off, tell me about yourself before you came to BCC ?

MF: Well, before Bergen, I wanted to be a lawyer. I worked for the Immigration Asylum office for three years, worked under a General Attorney and then I worked at a domestic violence agency. Between Immigration and domestic violence, I started teaching. My first class was Juvenile Justice in Middlesex County College. It was one of the best class experiences I ever had. I reached out to my mentor at Seton Hall and I taught there for a while. I said to myself, I want a job that no matter what happens, I'm happy at the end of the day because I was able to help somebody.

BG:Why did you decide to teach Honors?

MF: I wanted to teach Honors because I had colleagues who teach Honors classes and I would go to the two Honor conferences as a moderator. I listened to the student's papers and they were exceptional. I asked myself, how do I get my students to be willing do that? I feel that Honor students, by virtue of taking Honors classes, are up for that challenge. There is something prestigious of the word "Honor" and I think Honors students push themselves. I always wanted to teach an Honors version of criminology because my dream has always been guiding students through conducting their own research. Pushing my students to their limit.

BG: In your opinion, what is the best part about teaching?

MF: If I can get at least one student to change, improve their abilities on writing or their analytical skills or get them to understand, then I've succeeded. Its a service job for me. I love teaching.

BG: What goals do you have in mind for the JKW School of Honors and for SGA (Student Government Association)?

MF: There are a lot of talent in the different degree programs that are not necessarily tapped into because the courses are not part of their curriculum. Professor Gibbons said this and I agree with him- almost every course could become Honors worthy courses. I think it should branch into professional studies areas and I would like to see it grow in that respect. For SGA, I dream that all my students become successful and to help mentor them to become young leaders.

BG: Do you have any Advice for students who are trying to follow their passion/dream?

MF: Nothing has worth or has value unless you put effort in or you have to earn it. I always tell my students to study what you like. Be in college because you want to be in college. Study your passion and make it work for you. I have made my degree work in ways that have been a blessing. Learn as much as what you can absorb.

We Would like to Thank Prof. Farhat for her time !





Honors Association Contact Information

Honors Association

honorsassociation@bergen.edu
Or Contract Us Individually

President: tlolito@bergen.edu
Vice President: emoran@bergen.edu
Secretary: hmalik@bergen.edu
Publicist: sguinto@bergen.edu
Editor-in-Chief: bgomez85287@bergen.edu
Treasurer: apetrazzuolo@bergen.edu

Senior Secretary

Dolores Piro- dpiro@bergen.edu

Director of Honors

Seamus Gibbons- sgibbons@bergen.edu

PTK Administrative Advisor

Angie Goldszmidt- agoldszmidt@bergen.edu

Honorary Contributors

Editor-in-Chief of *The Honorary*

Bryant Gomez

Contributing Writers

Shantelle Guinto





Have a Happy Halloween!



@Bergernhonors | facebook.com/bergenhonors | bergenhonors