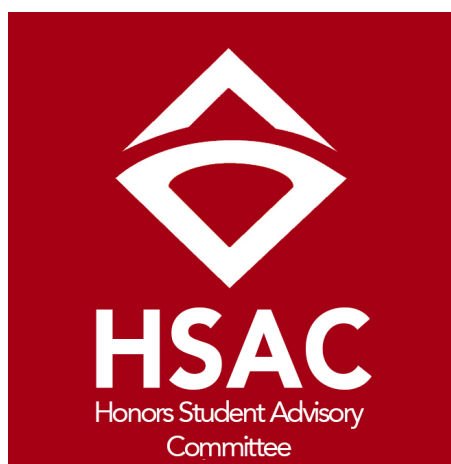




THE FIORELLO

HSAC NEWSLETTER

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The Honors Program

Transferring always appears to be a daunting process, and it sure is! Get an inside look at the tribulations these experienced students have endured, while receiving pointers on easing your own transfer process.

RECENT GRADUATE

Interviewing the Experts

Wenhui Fang is our most recent HSAC graduate. He is an exemplary honors student who completed his transfer process near flawlessly. In this interview, we sat down with Wenhui and attempted to gain insight on what made his process a breeze. Further, we learned a little about his aspirations and what he hopes to achieve at Georgetown University.

Why did you decide to transfer to Georgetown University? What major will you be pursuing?

I will be studying at their business school with a major in Management, Leadership, and Innovation (MLI), and will minor in Education. There are a couple of reasons why I chose Georgetown. First, the university proved itself as the perfect academic and professional match. I can maintain my business major, not lose many credits, and pursue my passion in education, which reflects my eventual

professional goal. Secondly, Georgetown offers need-based financial aid, which means it is going to be affordable, and their admissions process is need-blind. Lastly, location always matters. As the capital, D.C. is a place where tons of opportunities are always readily available.

What do you hope to accomplish with this major?

I want to prepare myself to work for a university and pursue a master's degree with tuition exemption so I don't need to take out huge loans for graduate school. I'm interested in working as an academic or professional adviser, and I'm interested in starting my own educational consulting business.

How did your LAGCC experience prepare you for a 4-year?

I haven't started my classes there so I can't tell decisively, but I do feel that the honors courses I took at... *CONTINUED*



"THE HONORS COURSES I TOOK AT LAGUARDIA PREPARED ME FOR A FOUR-YEAR SCHOOL"

LaGuardia have prepared me for a four-year school and the time management skills I have honed here should serve me well to succeed. Additionally, I benefitted significantly from opportunities and resources on-campus such as the President's Society and the Honors Student Advisory Committee.

What difficulties did you encounter with the transfer process?

Finding a balance between academics, transfer, extracurricular activities and my part-time job. I was actually working full-time, but I knew I could not handle everything so I quit my full-time job and worked part-time. I had to find a balance and prioritize what is most important, which is easier said than done.

What advice would you give to LAGCC students to have a smooth transfer process?

First, please make sure to start early because the process is extremely time-consuming. Every school has different transfer policies in terms of financial aid, course requirements, and you'll have to do extensive research to figure out if this school is truly right for you. For instance, some schools claim that they have a need-based financial aid policy and meet 100% students' demonstrated needs, but the admission process is need-aware, which means they take

your financial needs into account when you apply and you have to be aware of the consequences. Also, you will have to write a number of essays and revise them repeatedly; at the same time, you will have to work on the essays for your regular classes, which can be stressful. Second, it's OK to ask questions or ask for help, but do your own research first. People are willing to help you, but if you ask questions that can be easily answered by visiting schools' websites, they'll have less time to provide you with more valuable advice. Knowing the right questions to ask is an essential skill. Third, talk to your professors during their office hours. Get to know them because they are willing to help you in different ways and it is important for them to get to know you so that they can write a strong letter of recommendation. Lastly, get involved on campus; a stellar GPA is not enough for highly selective schools and do not create your college list solely based on prestige; finding the right match is endlessly more important.

INTERVIEW BY JONATHAN MORALES

Cover Image: Georgetown University

Need even more transfer wisdom? Previous HSAC members were lucky enough to interview transfer expert Dr. Bart Grachan. Below is a compilation of his most valuable advice. Take notes!

TRANSFER TIPS

1. Keep your GPA up. Any academic or merit-based scholarships will depend on it.
2. Choose an array of schools that you would be excited to attend that has your program of interest, including some CUNY and SUNY options.

3. Make no assumptions about what aid you'll get there based on what you get here.

4. Find out as early in the process as possible how your transfer credits will be applied to your degree.

5. File everything required by the deadlines posted.

6. Apply for external scholarships, and again, mind the deadlines.

7. Understand every part of your aid package, which might include loans.

8. Be prepared to cut a school loose. It's important that you be happy with your new institution, because it will increase your odds of success.

THE PERSONAL ESSAY IS A PICTURE OF WHO YOU ARE AS A PERSON



Understanding the Personal Statement

BY SARAH GARCIA

Writing your personal statement can seem intimidating. You may be asked about the struggles you have experienced and how they have molded you. The reality of your relationships with the memories of your struggles may be that you instead actively avoid them. A tool like the internet assists the avoidance of your stories. The HSAC website, *LaGuardiaHonors.com*, is one of those resources that help you better depict your story and I encourage you to explore its content. If you are determined to write an exceptional personal statement, ample time must be invested. This will allow you to shine amidst the piles of 3.5+ GPA transcripts and be distinguishable to admissions counselors. Imagine yourself as an admission counselor having to read

countless personal statements from students all over the world. You would want something that catches your attention and is engaging, therefore it is important to keep this in mind as you write your statement. What makes a good story great is that as the story unfolds, you are attempting to figure out what will happen next. The same is true for the individual reading your personal statement. You are the story unfolding before their eyes and they are anxiously awaiting the next missing piece. Set a theme for your personal statement and let your reader unravel the story of who you are. Just like a good movie there must be something that propels the character to move forward, an itch you can't scratch. Set a theme by asking yourself personal questions that only you hold the answers to. Do you feel strongly against gender inequalities or do you want to make an impact on the

future health of our planet? What are you passionate about and what are you doing to fulfill those passions? Your personal experience is what you will draw from in a personal statement. This is a way for you to express a truth that captures you and the values you live by. Make sure that it gets proofread over and over again until it's close to perfect as it gets. Spend ten or twenty minutes of your time each day just to reflect on specific moments in your life that pushed you to set certain goals and aim for higher education. You must write down these reflections. These will be the very foundations on which your personal statement will be built. This takes time, effort, and tons of personal reflection. It certainly helps to sit down with someone you know well, discuss ideas and map out your story in the personal statement. Hopefully this encourages you to start writing or see someone at the writing center.

STRENGTHENING YOUR WORDS

*Many LaGuardians often wonder how others are able to express themselves so vividly. Want to know their secret? They read! HSAC member Patrick LaVilla presents a review of the book *The Elements of Style* by E.B. White and William Strunk Jr.*

The 4th edition of the classic *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk and E.B. White features stylized, and exuberant method of writing – keeping one's voice concise and elaborate. It continually amazes me how often I can find the answer to a grammar or punctuation question within the pages of this book. It doesn't cover everything, and some of the "rules" are of course changing with the passage of time - but if a wannabe writer can't afford a whole bookcase of tomes on "how to write," then this is the one he or she should buy. This is a literal pocket-sized book, which is the solution to every student's grammatical nightmares. The book contains 14 pages of the "10 Commandments" in writing according to Strunk. Beyond those 14 pithy pages, however, are another 100 or so that extend the value of the book immeasurably: *Principles of Composition*, *Commonly Misused Words*, and perhaps the most valuable: *An Approach to Style*, which gives excellent advice along the lines of "do not overwrite," "avoid qualifiers," "don't over-explain," "avoid adverbs," "avoid dialect," "don't inject opinion," and tons of others. When all is said and done, however, one of the very best parts is a wonderful essay by the inimitable E.B. White himself. His Introduction, which serves as a perfect example of all that the rest of the small book preaches: write concisely, clearly, and well, say something worthwhile. This introduction alone enticed me to read for more. I purchased both third and fourth edition and found a significant difference on the content. Even so, is a new edition of this handbook really necessary? I believe that it is, not only because of the archaic references that needed updating, but also because today's younger writers need a sense of humor and wit to capture their attention; the latest edition has both. Strunk' and White's words of wisdom are, for the most part, reprinted as they appeared in earlier editions. The authors discuss such topics as elementary rules of usage, principles of composition and form, words commonly misused, and tips on how to develop an effective and natural style. Even experienced writers would do well to review *The Elements of Style* now and then to remind them of the importance of clarity, brevity, simplicity, and consistency. **BY PATRICK LAVILLA**



FLOURISHING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

While there are many components to the transfer process, including activities you engage in outside of a classroom setting is essential and should not be neglected. These activities are not limited to academic clubs, sports and organizations, and should cover anything you give your energy to. This may consist of volunteer work, taking care of a family member or playing an instrument: any integral experience you feel has contributed to the person you are today. For individuals who are interested in expanding their volunteer participation, NYCares is an excellent resource. NYCares is an organization that focuses on volunteer management and has served the great city of New York since 1987. They partner with 1,350 community organizations across all five boroughs and enable those who do not have the availability to commit an entire semester or season to volunteer at their will. Their approach is concise, does not require a set number of volunteer hours and is open to anyone. The process to become a volunteer is quite simple and straightforward. A one-hour orientation permits you the opportunity to volunteer with any project within your reach. Not only does NYCares lend a firm platform to volunteer with, they have also created an environment for individuals interested in leading and even creating their own volunteer project to do so. After completing three projects as a volunteer, an individual is eligible to become a project leader. NYCares' projects range from working with animals in need, elderly individuals and after school children's programs to community outreach, park restoration, tax preparation, tutoring, women's empowerment and various sports activities. Volunteer work is not only a great way to add weight to your transfer application, but a step towards connecting with your community and giving back to society. Also, volunteering can be a direct form of exposure to a field of interest and great way to network within said field for future work/employment opportunities. While you explore whether or not a specific field is right for you, consider volunteering as a good way to gain industry experience without having the tenure behind you. **BY JENEVIEVE PERRY**



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