



HSAC NEWS

BE THE CHANGE
YOU WANT TO SEE
IN THE WORLD

LAGUARDIAHONORS.COM

HONORS STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FB.ME/LAGUARDIAHONORS



CHOOSING YOUR MAJOR AT LAGUARDIA

TAKE A JOURNEY TO FIND THE RIGHT MAJOR FOR YOU

BY KIMBERLY MOTA

One of the most stressful moments during enrollment at any college is deciding what your major will be. There is a certain type of pressure that comes along with deciding what you will be studying for the next few years of your life. While it may be easier said than done, the process doesn't have to be as complicated as it may seem. Exploring your options and constantly having the willpower to step out of your comfort zone can prove to be a very rewarding experience. While there are many possibilities in what you can major in, two options within community colleges are Liberal Arts major and Applied Science majors. While there are several reasons to pursue a Liberal arts degree; most commonly when you have not decided yet what industry you wish to pursue post-graduation you may also know exactly what career path you want to pursue. One of the most important things to have during this

process is options along with the desire to express your intellectual curiosity.

The first thing to keep in mind is, if you're indecisive, you are not alone. Every year there are hundreds of students that enter college in a state of panic in regards to their major. Choosing a major, thinking about a career, getting an education; this is what college is all about. Yes, there are some students who arrive on campus and know exactly what their major and career ambitions are, but the majority of students do not; therefore, there is no need to rush into a decision. So why major in Liberal Arts? Simple, a degree path will provide you with a well-rounded education. You will be able to think for yourself. The diverse body of knowledge you will gain from a liberal arts education, together with the tools of examination and analysis that you will learn to use, will enable you to develop your own opinions, attitudes, values, and beliefs. These would be based not upon the authority of parents, peers, or

professors, and not upon assumptions, whim, or prejudice, but upon your own worthy apprehension, examination, and evaluation of argument and evidence. This is why some of the most prestigious universities in the U.S. only offer a liberal arts education. If you are considering transferring to a private institution there is preference for students with a liberal arts degree.

While you may not know what you want to do, you most likely know what you do not want to do. While a Liberal Arts degree gives you more flexibility when choosing what classes to take, those classes also hold the power to change a perspective. The beauty of taking classes that stimulate your intellectual curiosity and not just to get an easy A, can enable you to discover certain ideologies and spark interest in fields you would have never expected.

Now if your ultimate goal is to transfer to a four-year City University

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE >>>



of New York (CUNY) institution and you know you want to pursue a specific career, for example business, then it would be wise to choose to major in Business Administration over a Liberal Arts degree. CUNY universities follow "Pathways," making it easier for a student attending a Community College within the CUNY system to transfer their credit hours assuming the courses are equivalent. Many students make the mistake of majoring in liberal arts knowing full well what they want to do and that they would

like to transfer to a school like Hunter or Baruch. You are better served with an applied science degree, as it will prevent you from having to take courses that are core for you to continue your education once you arrive at your senior college within CUNY. This path is also for those who are passionate about a specific industry and would like to pursue it further. If you want be an elementary school teacher or an actuary, there are structured programs across any of the CUNY or SUNY schools that will allow you to pursue your passions.

No matter what you end up choosing LaGuardia has several options and there is a home for you in higher education. Being undecided when you step into LaGuardia is not rare or uncommon, but you can always make the best out of any tricky situation, with determination and willpower. Whether you know what you want to major in or don't, the possibilities at LaGuardia are endless.

Kimberly Mota is a LaGuardia alumna and member of HSAC. Please feel free to contact her at kmota94@gmail.com

THE CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

DOWN

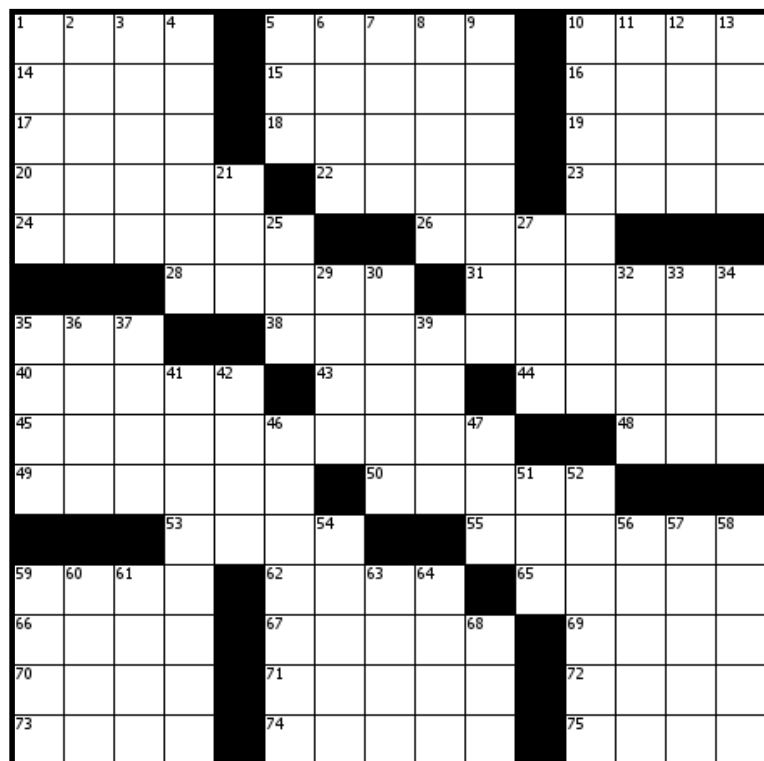
1. Range
2. Sophia _____
3. Sluggish
4. Want
5. "The _____ Side"
6. Cooled
7. Impolite

8. Calm
9. Tiresome
10. Needing company
11. Persia, today
12. Housekeeper
13. Building wings
21. Grant's foe
25. Distinctive time

27. Recipe instruction
29. Suggestion
30. Occasion
32. Annoying thing
33. Fascinated by
34. Potent particle
35. Paddles
36. Gratis

37. Midterm, e.g.
39. Foot part
41. Air's main component
42. Between ports
46. Renters
47. Eternally, in poems
51. Tourist's aid
52. Register
54. Designer Calvin _____

56. Yule visitor
57. Take place
58. Signified
59. Recipe abbr.
60. African lily
61. Heal
63. Locale
64. Leer
68. That woman



ACROSS

1. Coasted
5. Initial
10. Citrus fruit
14. Pine _____
15. Severe
16. Unwritten
17. Mine finds
18. Remodelled
19. Brad
20. Danger
22. Sandwich store
23. Concludes
24. Main dish
26. Profit and _____
28. Weird
31. Ideal place
35. Frequently, in poetry
38. Academic guidance
40. Ring
43. Yet, poetically

44. Basil sauce
45. Opposition
48. Male turkey
49. Divan
50. Essay topic
53. Military grade
55. Kidnapper's demand
59. Folded tortilla dish
62. Moreover
65. Location
66. Hit hard
67. Horse's comment
69. Andean mountain native
70. Tiny opening
71. Name
72. Daze
73. Perceived
74. Express scorn
75. Small pastry

ALUMNI INTERVIEW:

GREG SMITH

BY KEVIN SARMIENTO

I recently had the chance to sit down with Greg Smith, a recent LaGuardia alumnus, who transferred to Sarah Lawrence College.



Greg (pictured left) was an active member of the honors program, and offered me his insights into how he chose the major he eventually graduated with.

Kevin Sarmiento: *Where did you grow up and what circumstance led you to attend LaGuardia Community College?*

Greg Smith: I was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. At the age of 20 I moved to New York City with my father soon after dropping out of college. Moving to New York was my way of getting a fresh start after doing miserably in my first college. After working and traveling for a few years, I decided that it was time to go back to school, so I enrolled at LaGuardia Community College.

KS: *When you enrolled at LaGuardia did you have a major in mind? If not, how did you eventually decide on a major?*

GS: I enrolled at LaGuardia as a philosophy major. While attending my last college, I majored in Mass Communications. With some vague interest in advertising I figured it would be a good fit for me, but it turned out that I was absolutely wrong. I eventually came to choose philosophy as my major at LaGuardia because it was something I was deeply interested in. All throughout high school, and even during my first college stint I didn't really know what philosophy was. Sure I heard about it in passing, but I didn't really know what it was until I read *Philosophy for Dummies* during my time away from college. I was hooked right away, and I read anything I could get my hands on. By the time I decided to attend LaGuardia, choosing philosophy

as my major was a pretty easy decision. I had spent my time away from college investigating where my interests lie.

KS: *Was the major that you eventually chose something that you were passionate about? Do you believe choosing a major based on your passions is a good route toward success?*

GS: Absolutely! As a student I found that taking courses solely for the purpose of fulfilling degree requirements was torture. Some students select a major because it leads to a high paying job (hopefully) or because their parents approve of it. They end up taking a bunch of courses they're not really interested in, but do it anyway because they have to. I tried this approach and failed miserably. In my opinion, approaching college as a means to a career that you're not even sure you want, or going to college as a way to appease your parents, is an enormous mistake. When I came to LaGuardia, I wanted to study what I was actually interested in, so I ended up choosing philosophy. My grades and my happiness were at an all time high after my decision. I cannot overemphasize the importance of choosing a major that you are passionate about.

KS: *When the time came for you to decide what you wanted to do once you transferred to a four-year college, did your major help you?*

GS: Yes. Studying philosophy at LaGuardia reinforced my passion for the discipline. I knew that I wanted to continue to study it at a 4-year college.

KS: *What advice would you give to an undergraduate at LaGuardia who may be indecisive about choosing a major?*

GS: I would ask the student: What would you read about if you weren't in college? What do you love most in life? What really moves you? Answering

these questions will give one some clarity into what major they ought to choose. If you find that what you were once passionate about is suddenly dull then pick something else. Don't be discouraged. College is the place to explore and discover.



Sarah Lawrence College
Liberal Arts College
Founded in 1926
Located in Yonkers, New York
Student Population: 1,437

KS: *In what ways did your experience at LaGuardia and the Honors Program prepare you for your 4-year university?*

GS: I found that the best preparation for four-year colleges is through taking Honors classes. The major distinction between community college and four-year senior college is the course load. At my alma mater, Sarah Lawrence College, it was the norm to have 200-plus pages of reading each week. I also normally had 5-10 pages of writing due every other week. You don't experience that kind of rigor at the community college level, but the closest thing to it can be found in LaGuardia honors courses.

In my opinion the biggest asset of the Honors Program is the Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC). The mentorship, guidance, and support I found while working in HSAC was the primary reason I was accepted to Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University. Being surrounded by a group of highly intelligent and ambitious people, really fostered my academic and personal development. The friends I've made in HSAC are some of my closest, even years after graduating. Anyone who is interested in transferring to a four-year college should take honors courses and get involved with HSAC to help prepare for the next level.

Kevin Sarmiento is a LaGuardia student and member of HSAC. Please feel free to contact him at 12sarmientok@gmail.com



MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS

ACADEMIC ADVICE FROM LAGUARDIA PROFESSORS

BY **MARC LOPEZ**

Just as no two people are alike, neither are any two students. All students will have their own personal experience and should try to view the entire process of attaining a degree in that light. Embarking on the road to higher education may seem a bit scary, especially when the time comes to select a major. Many students are not sure of what career they see themselves in for the rest of their lives and they may honestly be putting too much pressure on themselves. Sometimes that pressure may come from an outside source such as a well-meaning family member who encourages a student to focus on earning potential when choosing a major.



Money is certainly important but to make that the highest priority for earning a college degree is most likely not the best approach. The choice to attend college is an indication that you are investing in yourself now, for

the future. Education in the United States is not cheap, costing both time and money, so spending both wisely is key. There are many outlets for help and information, as well as opportunities that are available on campus. Attending meetings and events as well as connecting with people in class will help you while in school as after graduating.

The first four years in college can feel like a blur, but hopefully in that short amount of time a student can grow and evolve. Being an active participant in the education process will help to make those four years meaningful and productive. If divided in half, the first two years can be used as a self-discovery period. Even if you know exactly what you want to study or which field you see yourself working in, you can move along that charted course while still exploring other interests. Within those first two years, you are also not obligated to declare any particular major.

I reached out to my current English teacher, Professor Farid Nassif as well as my former instructor, Dr. Evelyn Burg. They both gave good perspective on the topic of choosing a major and opened up about their own personal experience. Dr. Burg came to fall in love with the study of philosophy back in high school. After participating in a talk on Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," the reception she received from the

audience filled her with the passion to pursue teaching the topic. Dr. Burg also audited classes at Hunter College, which cemented her decision to pursue a philosophy degree. I asked her if she had any advice for students who are unsure about how to select a major. Her answer, which I felt was a great piece of advice for every student, was, "I think that I was unusual and might even do things differently...not having rushed a degree or attending graduate school... but learning about other subjects and life in general." Being precise and exact are skills that are great to have but I thought it was a refreshing notion, to seek education in the general sense.

Professor Nassif similarly knew what he liked and what he wanted to



study as well. In his case, he came to the realization of his life's calling by jumping buses to take a ride for the sake of it and getting lost while abroad with "little money or common sense." His obsession with writing before entering high school would keep him up all hours of the night fueled by the readings of Durkheim, Kafka, and Burroughs as well as his wish to just be in Washington Square Park.

When asked if they had any advice for students in the decision making process they each had similar answers. Dr. Burg said, "I think experimentation is good. This may be your one chance to learn something new. Go for it!" Professor Nassif replied, "Confronting such a decision shouldn't pucker one up so much that there is no room for exploration." The truth is that there is time, time for exploration and self-reflection, which will help in making that choice. Students should choose their major based on a personal discovery process.

Marc Lopez is a LaGuardia student and member of HSAC.



2015 NORTHEAST REGIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE

BY JOSHUA ROTBERT

With the approach of Spring, six students and I, all part of LaGuardia's honors program, took a scenic train ride to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This was the site of the 2015 Northeastern Regional Honors Council's Annual Conference, and host to more than 400 honors students from all over the Northeast. This conference offered a truly unique opportunity for students from all around the region to showcase

their own academic research through panel and poster presentations. Upon arriving in historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, I was immediately struck by the historical presence of the region.

An integral part of the conference was a day-long reflective event, where every student had the chance to explore the town and surrounding battlefields. Mirroring the energy of the locale, the theme of the conference was "Battlefields of Change." Students from all around the region presented papers

and issues dealing with 'battlefields' in a wide array of disciplines. My peers and I had spent most of our time leading up to the conference preparing ourselves for our presentations. Speaking in front of a room of fellow honors students and faculty was truly rewarding; the feedback and dialogue that resulted from the kinds of issues being brought up was an unparalleled educational experience. It was also wonderful to have the chance to speak to and relate with honors students from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom shared a common interest in academic achievement. I came away from this experience with a profound sense of motivation to seek out further knowledge through rigorous and rewarding academic research and writing.

I would advise any student who wants to develop their own public speaking and research skills to take honors classes at LaGuardia. These classes offer the right combination of research, discussion, and support to any student who seeks to test their mettle at an academic conference like NRHC. In my own experience, this was a life-changing adventure, one that will immeasurably support my future research endeavors.

Joshua Rotbert is a LaGuardia alumnus who is attending Bard College in the fall. Please feel free to contact him at josh.rotbert@gmail.com

LAGUARDIANS SAY



Sarah Mindana
Class of 2015

"Finding the right major can be tricky sometimes. I took me quite a moment to figure things out. What helped me a lot was finding out what

I am passionate about and what my skills are. When I found the answer to these questions I did some research on the possible majors and career paths I could follow. All these little steps have made me realize that psychology is the perfect major for me."

"Entering college is a big commitment. It isn't like high school where the professor and staff are reminding you about what to do all the time. Sometimes, or better said, most of the times, a new student—freshman—doesn't know what he/she wants to study or is unsure. This was me when I started two semesters ago, I was unsure about Computer Science or a Social Science major.



So I went to advising, and they encouraged me to try Liberal Arts, because it gives you the chance to learn about different subjects."

Jhon Ortiz
Third Semester
LaGuardia Student

Kennya Pesantez
Third Semester
LaGuardia Student



"The social sciences sparked my interest in furthering my education and as a result I was easily inspired to pursue the opportunities LaGuardia has to offer and to challenge myself to take courses outside of my comfort zone. It has proven to be a fulfilling college experience while reassuring me of the path I've chosen. I would advise incoming students to explore clubs you're interested in and to take honors courses. By being an active student you can actually create a supportive community setting for yourself and your peers."



OP

ED

HOW I CHOSE MY MAJOR

MY JOURNEY FROM ARCHITECTURE TO BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

BY CARLOS GALINDO

I will always be fortunate to have attended one of the specialized high schools in New York City, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. Having majored in art, I was immersed into art history, abstract painting and monthly trips to museums. I was able to take architecture classes as electives during my junior and senior years which cultivated my hopes to pursue architecture once I graduated. As an art major, I knew that a career in the arts was notoriously known to be tough and not well-paying. If I did want to pursue a career in the arts, it would have been as an architect. During my senior year, due to financial reasons, I was not able to pursue architecture at some of the schools I had been accepted to. Since I hadn't applied for scholarships, it would have been difficult to pay for tuition. Ultimately I ended up enrolling at City College CUNY (CCNY) as a liberal arts major. Throughout the year that I spent at CCNY, I didn't properly give the school a chance. I chose not to be active within the community and showed no interests in the classes I was taking, which then caused me to leave college and enter the workforce.

Making a decision proved to be tough, as I was always accustomed to being in school. Personal problems and the need to support my family financially, culminated with me working for the next two and half years. I worked as a mailroom clerk at Calvin Klein and Barnard College; these miscellaneous jobs gave me valuable insight on how the working environment functions. I was getting paid more than my father was but knew that in order to get promoted, I would need a college diploma. My intentions were always to go back to school, since I never saw myself working solely as a mailroom clerk.

After choosing to enroll at LaGuardia Community College (LaGCC), I had to pick a major. Having worked for two years and somewhat losing my passion for art, I decided to pursue a major in business. It was the most logical choice for me for many reasons, one being that it would, in my opinion, take me on the fast track to a management position.

Enrolling at LaGCC proved to be one of the wisest choices I had made. I was eager to be in a college environment again and to prove to myself that I could handle the workload. In search of clubs and student organizations, I stumbled upon Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), a prestigious honor society for community college students. A 3.5 GPA or higher was required for membership. After my first semester, my hard work paid off, and I was inducted into PTK. While roaming the long list of emails from LaGuardia I came upon a new program being launched in school called Crear Futuros, a mentorship program geared towards Latino students. I joined and was provided with student mentors who had the same goals and hopes I had. These two programs formed my initial foundation for my success at LaGCC.



Through PTK and my mentors I became aware that I was eligible to take honors classes and that I should take them in order to enhance my college applications once I transferred. It wasn't until I took these honors classes that I was immersed into different

fields by professors passionate about their subjects. Taking an honors course in Intro to Philosophy taught me to think critically and introduced me to the greatest thinkers that ever lived. Honors Global Politics heightened my interest in politics and the world. I soon became aware of the Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC), a collective of highly motivating honor students pursuing an intellectually challenging environment while creating a community within campus.

Being active in HSAC has allowed me to pursue its countless opportunities. I am currently part of a year-long internship called the Friends of Koch program, which exposes honors students to archival/historical research on NYC and public service. This program has introduced me to the importance of civic leadership and public service. These achievements allowed me to apply and be selected to The Model New York State Senate Session Project of 2015, an Edward T. Rogowsky Internship program designated for CUNY and SUNY students. The program puts its students through a series of intensive training seminars on state policy formulations, legislative processes, representation and leadership. These two programs allowed me to become more aware of how our political system works and the type of advocacy it takes to bring change. It has awoken my eagerness to become an advocate for people without a voice. Thus I will transfer in the fall as a political science major and will pursue a minor in philosophy. It is now my intention to graduate and eventually go to law school.

There isn't necessarily a concrete path to follow when it comes to picking a major. Throughout my experiences, whether it be taking honors classes or participating in internships/programs, I was able to narrow my choices down to political science. So my advice to continuing students would be to make the best of the opportunities you have while in college.

Carlos Galindo is a LaGuardia alumnus who is attending City College in the fall. Please feel free to contact him at galindo.carlos@outlook.com

EDITOR'S CORNER

A BIG THANKS TO MY LAGUARDIA FAMILY AND FRIENDS



LaGuardia is a school that has to actively defend, not only the quality of its education, but also the quality of its students. I, like many students came into LaGuardia empowered by the idea that I could succeed in school. I was hopeful when I started at the High School of Graphic Communication Arts, but like most students in LaGuardia life smacked me in the face and it took a while for me to get back up. Eventually, I graduated from my "zoned" school in Queens without a ceremony. LaGuardia was important to me because it was the first time in a long time that I was given agency in what I wanted to learn. I found myself in an amazing Liberal Arts Cluster taking classes with an emphasis on various art forms, taught by Professor Hugo Fernandez, Professor Joyce Rheuban, and Professor Nancy Berke. Even though I felt like I was receiving a great education, I still felt ashamed when asked what school I was attending.

Unfortunately, I was one of the many people who believed a community college was not a 'real' college and I carried that stigma with me. I felt the

need to explain to people how I arrived at LaGuardia in hopes of justifying my abilities. By the end of my final semester, I was determined to stop feeling ashamed; instead, I decided to stand up for the education my peers and I were so proud to be receiving. During the spring of 2014, I took my first honors course and was immediately immersed in the Honors Program. I met a variety of students who were eager to make the most of their time at LaGuardia and who were passionate about the opportunities CUNY had to offer. After actively discussing the importance of empowering the larger LaGuardia community, I was excited to tell everyone about the value that community colleges have for students in need of a second chance. I have been fortunate to meet some of the best professors at LaGuardia, all of whom have allowed me to come into their office to discuss various topics such as the value of a liberal arts education, systems of oppression, or even help me prepare for a regional Honors Conference.

I am thankful to my LaGuardia family and friends for the opportunity to ask questions, to take action, and most of all for helping me move forward. I have had a great time working with a wide variety of intellectually curious

students as well as working with faculty ready to question the norms. It has been a joy to serve both the Honors community and the LaGuardia community through initiatives like the Transfer Workshop and the HSAC Newsletter. As I pack my bags to attend Emory University in the fall, I will hold the many memories LaGuardia has gifted me close to my heart. A big thanks to my Honors family and the dedication of LaGuardia's faculty. Finally, a big Brooklyn thank you, 'you the bomb!'

SHAFIR'S 坻罈 SUDOKU

				9			
			5				3
	7				1	5	
5	1			2	7		
6	2		1		8		
8		3		4			2
				9			1
	6	8	2				5
	4	2					6

NEWSLETTER STAFF

KIMBERLY MOTA
EDITOR

JACQUELINE VELIZ
EDITOR

JOSHUA ROTBERT
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
& EDITOR

JASON HENDRICKSON
FACULTY ADVISOR

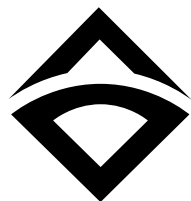


UPCOMING EVENT

SUMMER
TRANSFER WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND, 2015
2:30 - 4:00 PM
ROOM E-500 & E-501

HONORS STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LAGUARDIAHONORS.COM



FB.ME/LAGUARDIAHONORS

HSAC NEWS