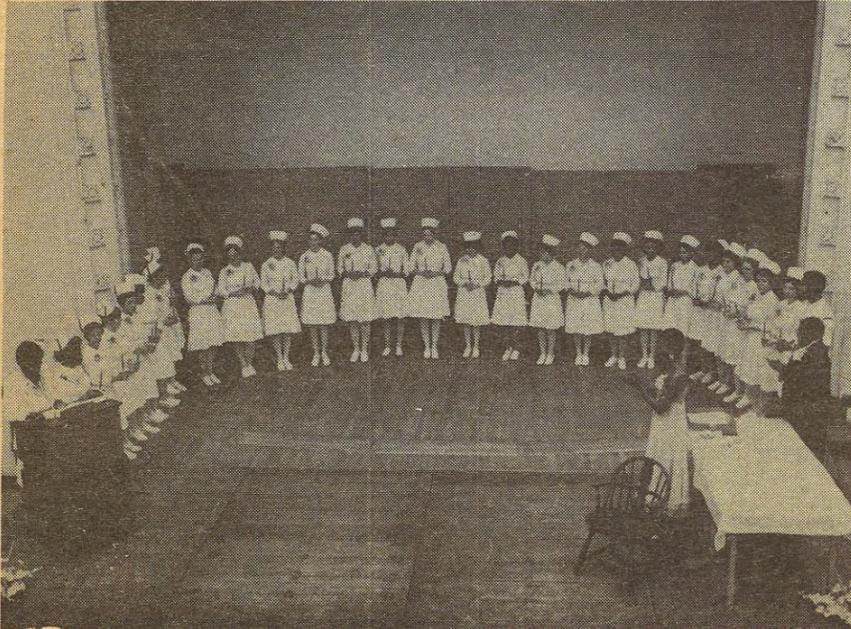


el Coquí

A News Publication of Hostos Community College
of the City University of New York

Volume 7, Number 8
May, 1977



The freshman dental hygiene class donning caps at the completion of ceremony held at Lehman on May 1.

Freshmen Students Are Capped In Dental Hygiene Ceremony

The dental hygiene department "capped" 28 of its freshmen during its sixth annual capping ceremony held at Lehman College on May 1. It was the largest group ever to be capped during the traditional ceremony which marks the students' progression from their first to second year of study.

Tradition—that was the emphasis of the ceremony. As Prof. Anita Cunningham, chairman of the department, told the students and audience of parents and friends, "Even though Hostos is innovative in so many ways, this ceremony is, more than anything, traditional."

Prof. Cecilia Black, formerly with the Hostos dental hygiene department and now chairman of the dental hygiene department at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, spoke to the students about maintaining another tradition: the tradition of professional dental care. The guest speaker at the capping, Prof. Black, reminded the students that, although the dental hygiene profession was divided over such issues as remuneration and the scope of the hygienist's duties, it was above all committed to providing the best professional care possible.

"You must ask yourselves," said Prof. Black, "what have I done for the public? You must look at the patient as a human being, not as a number. You must ask: 'What does this patient need from me?' And forget about the other issues as you provide that care. That is professionalism."

Delving into a subject which was certainly not traditional was student Laura Antoniette who, speaking on behalf of the freshman class, underscored the need to do away with sexual stereotypes which discourage men from pursuing careers in dental

hygiene. She pointed out that, although the Hostos dental hygiene department had recently been attracting some men, there was still "a long way to go." There was one man, Cecil Pittman, among the 28 students who were capped.

The closing remarks were given by Associate Dean of Students Peter Martin who commended the students and their families for the sacrifices which

(Continued on page 3)

TAP Cuts Still Threaten Hostos

The refusal on the part of the State Legislature's Democratic leadership to go along with major components of Governor Hugh Carey's proposals to change the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) has been met with great relief and satisfaction at Hostos. The leadership, however, has accepted one of the proposals which would limit or entirely deny tuition assistance for single emancipated students who constitute roughly 30 percent of the Hostos student population.

Of the 2,600 students enrolled at Hostos this fall, 784 are defined as single emancipated students. The state deems a student to be emancipated if

Cándido de León, president of Hostos Community College since September of 1971, has announced his resignation effective August 31.

President de León's association with Hostos dates from 1968, the year the Board of Higher Education resolved to place the college in the South Bronx and two years before it opened its doors to its charter class in 1970.

In response to demands from the local community, the board's decision to establish an institution of higher learning in the South Bronx was truly novel; the college was to be the first unit of the City University to be placed in an economically depressed community with the express purpose of playing a role in the revitalization of that community.

Following the board's resolution, the University's central office turned to President de León, then executive assistant to former CUNY Chancellor Albert H. Bowker, and charged him with the responsibility of submitting an organizational scheme for the college, at that time known as Community College Number VIII.

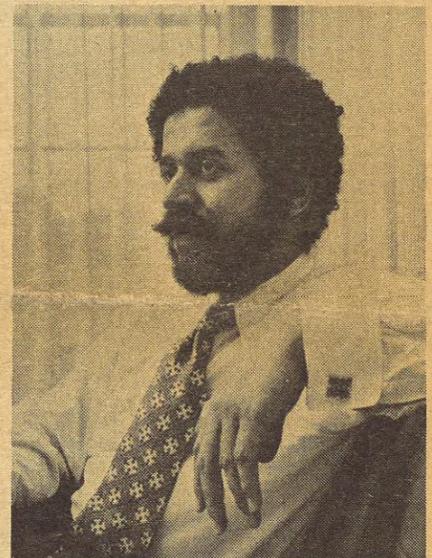
In the years before, President de León had served as the director of CUNY's College Discovery Program which has provided remedial, tutorial and counseling services to thousands of young disadvantaged New Yorkers seeking higher education. He also played an important part in developing the counseling and placement pro-

cedures for the first students in the University's SEEK program, College Discovery's counterpart at the senior colleges.

In 1968, serving as Hostos' first dean of administration even before the college's first president was appointed, Mr. de León and two staff members—a secretary and assistant—began work in a tiny office in the Board of Higher Education's "Annex" on East 80th Street in Manhattan.

Then, having guided the college during its planning stages, Mr. de León

President de León to Resign Effective the End of August



President Cándido de León

took a leave of absence to pursue his doctoral studies at Columbia's Teachers College.

He returned to assume the presidency of Hostos after the college's first year, a year which was racked by internal problems caused largely by uncertainties plaguing the fledgling college and the University as it set out to implement its open admissions policy.

Under the direction of President de León, however, the college gained its equilibrium, and began to face the challenge of educating a student population which, until then, had been largely neglected.

The college's efforts during the de León administration were prized in the summer of 1974 when the college was granted unconditional accreditation following an exceptionally favorable report from a visitation team of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The Middle States report noted: "The emergence of Hostos Community College as an operable concept provided new hope for Puerto Rican and Black academic professionals to acquire promotional and employment opportunities in sufficient number to impact on the quality of life in the

(Continued on page 2)

College Community Mourns Death of Dr. Raoul Pérez

As this issue of El Coquí goes to press, the Hostos college community has been struck by a profound tragedy, the sudden death of Prof. Raoul Pérez, chairman of the modern languages department. With the college since its inception, Prof. Pérez served his students and colleagues steadfastly and loyally. The college deeply mourns his passing.

(Continued on page 2)

el Coquí

A news publication of Hostos Community College of the City University of N.Y.

Vol. 7 No. 8

May, 1977

Published monthly from October through June by the Office of College Relations and Development, Hostos Community College, 475 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451. El Coquí, named after a tree frog indigenous to Puerto Rico, is read by Hostos faculty, staff, and students and the communities which the college serves. For information and submission of news call: (212) 960-1008, 9.

De Lectoribus

On Going Home

The following contribution is from Victor Vázquez, vice-president of the Hostos Student Government Organization.

I was off in a daydream thinking of the sister I relate to and trying to imagine the reaction of her family. (I was going to meet them for the first time.) Suddenly, I noticed people looking out the windows. I looked overhead and noticed that the "No smoking" and "Fasten seatbelt" lights were on. We were about to land. It was then that I realized how close I was to home.

Home? Funny, I was born and raised in New York, the Big Apple, but, no, *this* is really home! The home of my father, my mother, his father, his mother . . .

I was on American Airlines flight 665 (coach, of course, not too many of us Ricans fly first class!), and it was about to land in San Juan. It had been almost 14 years to the day since my mother, my father, my brothers Ray and Georgie, and my kid sisters, Cuchi and Abby and I had left Puerto Rico.

"Isla del Encanto." It's always written in the ads in the subway, El Diario, Latin New York and others. Isla del Encanto for whom? Isla del Encanto for all the unemployed (close to 40 percent of the population, I understand)? Isla del encanto for the unfortunate ones who work at the petrochemical and pharmaceutical plants exposed to deadly chemicals that cause all kinds of diseases? Isla del encanto for the poor who buy what little they can at the local "tienda" with food stamps?

"So this is Puerto Rico!" I said to myself as I looked out the plane's window. And as I looked out on the land of Betances, de Hostos, Albizu and the rest, I thought to myself, "If you remove all the palm trees, it would look just like Queens." Americanization it's called. Puerto Ricans are fit into a mold and told: "Repeat after me, 'I pledge allegiance to the flag . . .'"

The cultural shock wasn't as great as it might've been. I had prepared myself psychologically by talking to friends who had been to the island many times. Some were born and raised there like my compañera. Oh yes, I was prepared to see the usual Burger Kings, Woolworth's, J.C. Penneys and good ole Rockefeller banks. After all, it wasn't the first time I had seen a

colony. The last time was in Vietnam (class of '71) except that then the Vietnamese people were in the midst of a struggle called National Liberation—the first step in self determination which is preceded by a good knowledge of self as a people.

But this wasn't Vietnam! It was Puerto Rico in April, 1977, and we're still struggling to acquire the knowledge of self, that secure feeling of being a people. Yes, we're still struggling but we will succeed because history says we will.

My compañeros took me around the island. I saw more of Puerto Rico, I think, than anyone can see in the eleven days I was there. And, you know, that itty-bitty, 100-by-38-mile island (as it was described in school) was not so itty-bitty after all. Puerto Rico is a beautiful island, once you get out of the San Juan metropolitan area which at any time of day resembles 34th Street and 8th Avenue. It's beautiful: From the beaches of Guamica (where the American soldiers first invaded the island) to the mountains of Aibonito, from the northern coast towns of Arecibo and Barceloneta to the east coast of Fajardo.

Beautiful, yes, but I couldn't help thinking that somehow a mysterious sandman was sprinkling a deep sleep on the Puerto Rican people. Waking them up will be a struggle, but, once awake, they will dare to imagine.

On my return trip, I thought to myself that I know I am only one individual, but I will do what I can to steal the sandman's bag and wake up as many of my countremen as I can!

TAP...

(Continued from page 1)

ways of financing their educations.

In the meantime, the City University's central office has developed plans to lobby for a number of items on the state's supplemental budget. According to Prof. T. David Foxworthy, special assistant to the president for legislative affairs, the items are as follows:

. . . A change in the University's funding formula which would insure full funding for CUNY's community colleges. At present, the state's share of the community college budget is \$58 million. Of this amount, about \$3.5 million are matching funds dependent on the city not reducing its share. The city however, has said that it is reducing its share of the funding of the community college budget. The change in the funding formula would guarantee full funding regardless of what the city's contribution finally is.

. . . An additional \$2.8 million to annualize the new contract with the Professional Staff Congress to the months of July and August.

. . . An additional \$500,000 to institute the university-wide "sophomore exam."

. . . An additional \$1 million to implement a new computerized central accounting system.

. . . An additional \$500,000 to continue remedial programs carried out in conjunction with local high schools.

Lobbying for the supplemental budget was expected to have begun in late April. It will probably continue well into June.



President Cándido de León addresses audience of students, faculty and staff during secretarial science seminar.

Secretarial Science Department Holds Secretary Week Seminar

Increasingly popular during the last few semesters (registration and applications have been steadily increasing), the secretarial science department also showed during its National Secretarial Week Seminar on April 27 that it was proud of its achievements and victories.

The seminar was an occasion for congratulations, advice from employers in the working world, and awards for outstanding students.

Commenting on the floral arrangements which decorated the student lounge on 151st Street where the seminar was held, Prof. Patricia Parzych, chairman of the department, said: "The best bouquet of flowers are the students who started as seeds and are now blooming" as they approach graduation.

Greeting the students was President Cándido de León who recalled the importance of a single secretary in the beginning of Hostos Community College. He recalled that in 1968-69, when plans were being made for the opening of Hostos for the fall of 1970, the entire staff of the college consisted of President de León, who at that time was the Dean of Administration, an assistant and an all-important secretary. President de León said that, without the skills and abilities of that secretary, without her ability to channel information and organize administrative procedures for the fledgling administration, the college could not have begun to develop.

Addressing the students during the seminar were Mrs. Alfreda Williams, an administrator at Mount Sinai Hospital, and Mr. Samuel B. Granirer, director of the Catholic Career Council. Both have been loyal, veteran members of the secretarial science department's advisory committee. Mrs. Williams informed the students on the requirements which Mount Sinai and other medical institutions make of their prospective secretaries and office managers. And Mr. Samuel B. Granirer, spoke of the qualities which private industries require of prospective members of their office staff.

Mrs. Williams pointed out that more

and more Hostos graduates have been placed in secretarial positions at prestigious Mount Sinai. She attributed their success at Mount Sinai to the quality of instruction which they receive at Hostos.

Mr. Granirer also mentioned that, as the director of a major placement service for the New York Archdiocese, he had seen many an Hostos graduate find excellent positions in the working world. (Mr. Granirer neglected to mention that they had found those positions through his office.)

The National Secretarial Week Seminar was also an occasion for recognizing the achievements of students. Students Phyllis Jackson and Rosemary Santiago received awards as the most outstanding freshman and senior students respectively. Receiving an award for being the most improved student was Evangeline Lynch, and receiving special awards for contributions and service to the secretarial science department were Petra Alvarez and Diane Casanova. A special "appreciation award" was given to the department's secretary, Margie Walker, whom Prof. Parzych referred to as "the best secretary at the college."

The mistress of ceremonies at the seminar was Prof. Lucille Pruit; Prof. Faye Carson presented the awards.

Dean of Faculty Evangeleos Gizis closed the ceremony by congratulating the department's senior students and wishing them many future successes.

de León...

(Continued from page 1)

Community . . . The president . . . is a man of enormous intellectual capacity [with] a precise understanding of the societal dynamics that influence the educational process and outcomes of the institution."

President de León submitted his resignation to Chancellor Robert J. Kibbee in April. He is in the process of formulating plans for the future.

President, Chairmen Tentatively Adopt Letter Grading System

The Council of Chairpersons and Directors and President Cándido de León have in principle approved the implementation of a letter grading system, the latest development in the process began last fall of revising the Hostos curriculum.

The grading system was approved by President de León and the Council at its April 14 meeting. Their approval, however, was made contingent upon a number of widespread changes in the Hostos curriculum, changes which have been the subject of intensive discussion during the Council's meetings throughout the present academic year.

The adoption of the grading system was also made contingent upon precise delineation by the faculty of what level of performance each letter grade indicates.

At the heart of the curricular changes is the establishment of English, Spanish and, if appropriate, mathematics prerequisites for all content courses offered at the college. According to Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gizis, who presides over the meetings of the Council, it was reasoned that the establishment of these prerequisites was necessary to insure that there be a homogeneity of students in terms of skills preparation. A course instructor would thus be able to proceed with the course material as outlined in a course syllabus and performance objectives without having to accommodate students of varying language and/or mathematics abilities in the same class.

In order to implement this fundamental change in the curriculum, every course instructor has, during the present academic year, drawn up syllabi as well as performance objectives for each class. The syllabi are, in effect, general statements of the material which each of the courses is to cover. And, as Dean Gizis explains, they will also be "the instrument of communication with departments in the college and in CUNY." They will thus facilitate articulation between Hostos and the City University's senior colleges.

The typical syllabus includes the following:

- ... Prerequisites in terms of courses.
- ... Prerequisites in terms of basic skills.
- ... Types of examinations.
- ... Types of writing and reading assignments.

The performance objectives for each course will continue to serve as a kind of check list which will tell the student exactly what he or she is expected to accomplish.

Other changes in the Hostos curriculum approved by the Council of Chairpersons and Directors and President de León are:

... That the English, mathematics, and modern languages departments will publish the exit criteria for all courses offered in their departments.

... That the English, mathematics and modern languages departments will administer departmental examinations and cross-read these examinations in order to insure that the exit criteria are adhered to.

... That all faculty will organize their courses in accordance with the English, Spanish, and mathematics prerequisites so that the requirements made of students are consistent with their skills.

... That the class size of courses offered in the English department be decreased to 27 students per section.

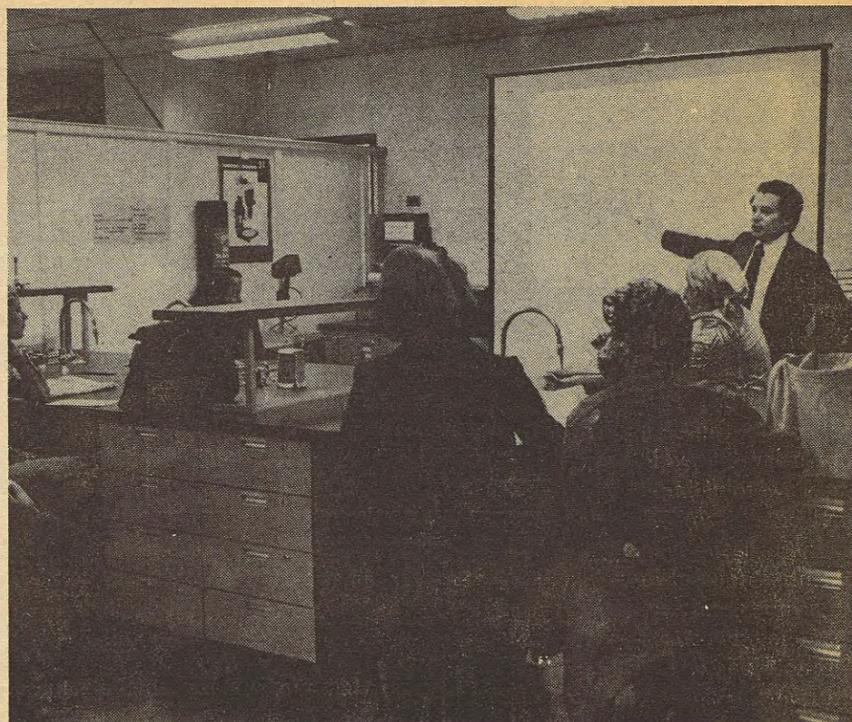
... That, to insure that students do not register for courses which are not commensurate with their language or computational skills, students be required to register in courses in the following order: English, Spanish, mathematics, sciences, all other courses.

... That the liberal arts faculty will offer academic advisement to liberal arts students.

... That all departments will establish exit criteria for all courses.

... That each course will have a syllabus and a set of performance objectives. The syllabus and the per-

(Continued on page 4)



LEARNING ABOUT HEREDITY: Prof. Victor de León of the biology department lectures future biologists on the mechanics of heredity during a lecture sponsored in April by the Hostos Biology Club. Prof. de León has conducted extensive research at Cornell Medical College on how mothers contribute to the genetic makeup of their children. The Biology Club lecture was coordinated by Prof. Silvia Greer, the club's advisor.

Rise in High School Applicants For Admission Next Semester

After two months of intensive recruiting at local city high schools, the Hostos Admissions Office has accepted the applications of 288 prospective freshmen.

The figure represents the total number of high school seniors who have applied to the college after the completion of what the University Application Processing Center refers to as "Phase II" in the annual admissions process. Each phase encompasses a month of the recruiting effort; Phase II ran through the month of March. The recruiting and admissions process will continue until Labor Day weekend.

According to the Office of Admissions Services (OAS), approximately 4,100 students were processed for all CUNY units during Phase II. On the basis of this figure, OAS estimates that the fall freshman class for the University will be over 37,000 students.

OAS administrators emphasized that

there are still seats available in most CUNY colleges and in the SEEK and College Discovery programs. Members of the local community interested in attending Hostos or participating in the College Discovery program, which provides special financial and academic services for disadvantaged students, should contact Prof. Virginia Paris, director of admissions at Hostos (telephone: 960-1114).

Following are the total Phase I and II allocations of freshmen to the Hostos career programs:

Program	Total	Requested
Den Hyg	34	25
Acctg	17	180
Secretarial	75	90
Child Care	42	100
X-Ray	33	20
Civ Admin	4	60
Med Lab	5	87
Total	288	772

Capping...

(Continued from page 1)

they had to endure to succeed in the rigorous and demanding dental hygiene program. He said that it was fitting for the students to celebrate their accomplishments with the capping ceremony.

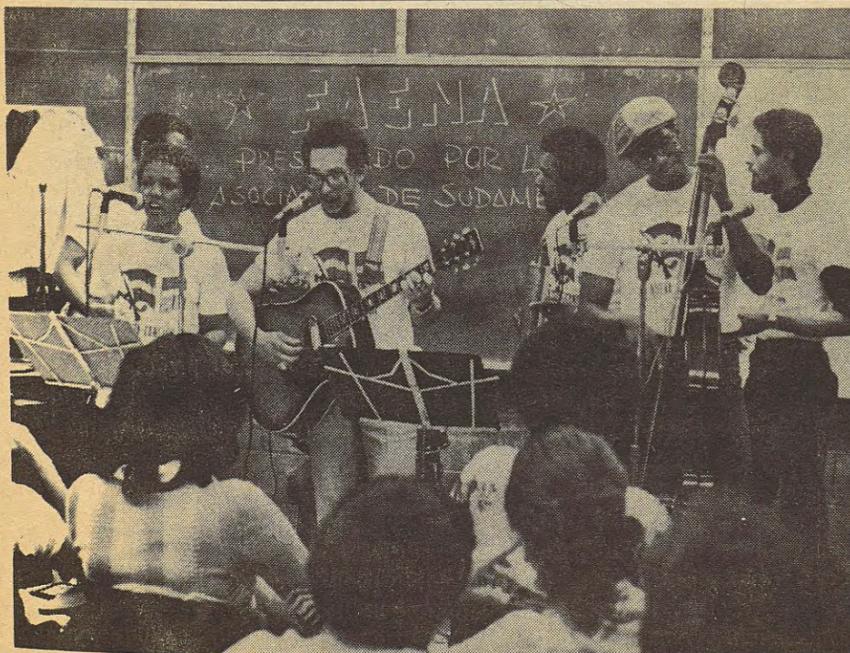
The capping ceremony was itself solemn and beautiful. The students received caps bearing two half-stripes, one blue, marking the Hostos colors, and one lavender, symbolizing the profession of dentistry. The caps will be worn by the students during a challenging 1,000-hour clinical practicum which will stretch throughout this summer and the following academic year. The licensed dental hygienist wears a cap with two full stripes.

One by one, the freshman students received caps from Prof. Selena James and a candle from Mrs. Ernestine Leach of the dental hygiene staff. Once

they had assembled at the rear of the stage at Lehman's Gillette Auditorium, Prof. James and Mrs. Leach lighted each of the candles, representing the students' initiation to the dental hygiene profession. The lights in the auditorium were then turned off to climax the ceremony.

The students receiving caps were: Ana Alejandro, Laura Antoniette, Margaret Balsamello, Laura Berkey, Evelyn Calderón, Lori Cirvello, Celia de Jesus, Kathleen Dorfman, Ingrid Doyle, Geraldine Giglio, Marie Gison-di, Diane Green, Kathleen Higgins, Nursadies Jarrett, Janis Kirk, Clara McNeill, Silvia Mirthes, Diane Natole, Milagros Pabellón, Arelis Peña, Hilda Quiles, Beth Rubin, Joel Russ, Chery, Sobel, Roseann Tavalacci, Mabel Thomason, Nancy Witzman and Cecil Pittman, the one gentleman in the freshman class.

The ceremony was followed by a reception for students, their parents and spouses, faculty and guests.



INTERPRETING THE 'NEW SONG': The "Grupo Cultural Faena," a group of Dominican students, presents a concert during a week-long program sponsored in April by the South American Student Union. The group's repertoire includes songs of social protest with the use of traditional instruments.



DENTAL HYGIENE AND SECRETARIAL ACTIVITIES: During April and early May, dental hygiene and secretarial science departments held capping ceremony and annual seminar. From left, above, Ms. Ernestine Leach and Prof. Selena James 'cap' student; dental hygiene freshmen await beginning of capping ceremony; Prof. Faye Carson presents award to Rosemary Santiago, "outstanding" secretarial student; and Rosa Colón of college relations staff sports corsage given to all secretaries by secretarial department on the occasion of Secretarial Day.

News Briefs

Mr. Carlos Velázquez of the admissions office was a member of a delegation which received a proclamation on April 21 from Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams declaring that day as Spanish Language Day in the Bronx. The other members of the delegation were: Mr. Federico Pérez, president of the Crusade in Defense of the Spanish Language, an organization which campaigned for Spanish Language Day; State Senator Israel Ruiz; and Prof. Luis Pinto of Bronx Community College who coordinated a program of activities at his college in observance of the day.

Prof. Joseph Y. Peary of the biology department has been appointed to the board of directors of the Feiga Gory Remetier Memorial Foundation, an affiliate of the Gardiner Clinical Laboratories of Forest Hills, Queens. The foundation supports medical technology training and research projects at C.W. Post College. Prof. Peary is also a consultant to the Ocean Resources Utilization Program at Inter-American University in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico which he helped to establish in 1971. In addition, he is a trustee of the Ocean Living Institute of Kearney, New Jersey which sponsors marine-related community activities.

Mr. Nicolas Arroyo, a student in the real estate program of the Hostos division of community and continuing education, was recently honored by WNJU-TV as one of the station's Merit of the Week recipients. The honor goes every week to a distinguished member of the Hispanic community in the metropolitan area. Mr. Arroyo received the award largely for his service as the project director of the Silvia Chee Memorial Scholarship Program which awards college scholarships to youths in the South Bronx community. The program is funded by the Model Cities Administration, and is administered by the City University Research Foundation. Mr. Arroyo is also an officer with Organizaciones Unidas del Bronx and he is president of Cabo Rojeños Ausentes, a civic hometown club.

Hostos graduate José Mota ('75) has compiled and translated a community handbook for Community School Board 3 in Manhattan. Mr. Mota has been an administrator with the School Board since he graduated from Hostos. The board's jurisdiction covers one of the largest Hispanic communities of the city. Many of the schools in the district offer model bilingual education programs.

Prof. Judith Nowinski of the modern languages department gave the latest seminar in the Social Sciences Seminar Series on April 14. The topic of her seminar was "Joan of Arc: Liberated Woman?"

Prof. Gerlad Meyer of the social sciences department was a guest lecturer recently at the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell. Prof. Meyer spoke, first, on the late Congressman Vito Marcantonio (the subject of his doctoral dissertation) and then on methods and theories of trade union administration. Currently, the chairman of the Hostos chapter of the Professional Staff Congress, Prof. Meyer has had a long career in the trade union movement at the university as well as the public school level.

Prof. Clara Velásquez, director of the English-as-a-second-language program, has been appointed to the Board of Education's City-Wide Advisory Commission on Bilingual Education. Prof. Velásquez is one of two Hostos faculty members serving on the commission which advises the chancellor of the Board of Education on matters pertaining to bilingual instruction in the public schools. The other member of the advisory committee from Hostos is Prof. Edward Maynard, chairman of the Africana studies department.

Prof. Velásquez also gave a presentation on teacher training according to the prescriptions of federal law at the National Convention of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) which was held in Miami, Florida, in late April. Prof. Velásquez based her presentation on the prescriptions laid down by the Lau case, a landmark federal court case which requires school districts across the country to provide bilingual education to children in communities which are not predominantly English-speaking.

Student Marta Elena Muñiz has published some of her work in the *College Poetry Review*, a publication which appears twice a year and presents the work of students across the country. Ms. Muñiz has published her poetry in other student publications, including *Eco/Echo*, the Hostos student newspaper. Among her works are several sonnets which require exceptional technical ability and discipline.

Prof. Linda Hirsch of the English department conducted a seminar on remedial writing in early April for the staff of City College's writing center. The seminar focused on the special problems faced by Spanish-speaking students as they learn to write English. Prof. Hirsch is the coordinator of the Hostos writing laboratory.

Prof. Louis Wheaton of the Africana studies department was a participant in a panel discussion on the role of the legal system in protecting the minority presence in higher education which was part of the program of a conference presented by The Black Council on Higher Education, Inc. on the minority presence in higher education. Held in New York on May 7, the conference was also sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs of the College Entrance Examination Board and the Educational Testing Service. Prof. Wheaton was one of the coordinators of the conference. Also participating in the conference was Chancellor Robert J. Kibbee who was a panelist during a discussion on the institutional commitment to the minority presence in higher education.

Letter Grading...

(Continued from page 3)

formance objectives will be distributed to students at the first class meeting. And a college-wide performance objectives committee will review all performance objectives.

Essentially the decision to tentatively adopt the letter grading system was based on evidence that Hostos graduates were encountering difficulties transferring from a pass-fail grading system to the more traditional system which prevails at senior colleges.

If ultimately adopted, the letter grading system will be reviewed and monitored by a Committee on Grading Practices which will be appointed by the president and the college-wide Personnel and Budget Committee.

If next year's budget allows, an additional curricular change will be instituted in the science departments. The change calls for the hiring of special tutors to help students develop language and computational skills. If the experiment proves successful, the tutorial system may be adopted for other courses and programs.

The changes in the Hostos curriculum are geared to implement what Dean Gizis refers to as a "ladder of progression" which students will follow to be sure that they do not enter courses and programs for which they are not prepared, and their transition from Hostos to senior college is as easy and natural as possible.

Ultimate adoption of the April 14 resolution of the Council of Chairpersons and Directors depends on the establishment of course exit criteria, prerequisites, and course performance objectives.

Hostos Community College
475 Grand Concourse
Bronx, N.Y. 10451

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
Paid
BRONX, N. Y.
PERMIT NO. 227

Prof. Gerald Meyer

Social Sciences