

el Coquí

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

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November, 1978



Members of the Dominican Student Organization entertain at the annual Hostos Community College Open House. Their repertoire focused on the Cancion Nueva, a Latin American musical genre emphasizing social and political themes.

Open House Indicates Interest In Hostos As Keen As Ever

High Schoolers' Attendance More Than Doubles

Attendance at this year's Hostos Community College Open House, held on October 14, indicates that interest in the college and the programs it offers is more keen than ever.

Most telling is the fact that the number of prospective students at the open House more than doubled from 89 a year ago to 179 this year. (As expected, most of those were from nearby high schools in the Bronx and Manhattan.) And total attendance has shown a steady yearly increase from 100 in 1974 to 242 this year.

"The college community can be very proud of the attendance figures," said Mr. Carlos Velázquez, assistant director of admissions, "because it shows that our recruitment, carried out by faculty, staff and students, has left a good impression on high school students."

Many of those very same faculty, staff and students were on hand at the Open House to greet the guests. They were present not only to entertain but also to inform prospective students of program offerings, student life and financial aid opportunities at Hostos. The accent, in fact, was on information, which, this year, was provided through a series of workshops and presentations conducted by counselors and faculty members and coordinated by Mr. Velázquez.

The workshops and the workshop directors were as follows: Financing

Your Education by Ms. Carmen Vázquez, deputy director of financial aid; Program Offerings by Mr. Carlos Velázquez; Hostos' Special Programs by Prof. Daisy Alverio, assistant dean of students and Prof. Bette Kerr, director of academic advisement; Getting a Head Start at Hostos by Ms. Virginia Paris, director of admissions; and Career Development by Prof. Harcourt Carrington and Carlos Gonzalez of the counseling staff.

Faculty members were also on hand to conduct laboratory demonstrations: Prof. Elsa de Reiser, director of the medical laboratory technology department, and Prof. Clara Watnick, chairman of the Physical Sciences Department, demonstrated the capabilities of Hostos's advanced medical laboratory equipment; Prof. Leroy Sparks, chairman of the Radiologic Technology Department, gave tours of the X-ray laboratory; Prof. Anita Cunningham, chairman of the Dental Hygiene Department, showed guests around the dental clinic; and Prof. Sylvia Greer welcomed other guests to the college's biology and physical sciences laboratories. In addition, Prof. Magda Vasilov of the Visual Performing Arts Department organized an exhibition of her photography students' work.

The entertainment program featured a choral presentation by the

Continued on page 2

Mayor Approves Bond Sale For Renovation of Building

Decision Follows Recommendations Of Special Consultant

Hostos Community College ended an arduous four-and-a-half-year struggle for additional facilities on October 23 when Mayor Edward Koch gave his support for the renovation of the 500 Grand Concourse Building.

The mayor's approval of the renovation followed the recommendations of: Harold Howe, vice-president of the Ford Foundation, whom the mayor has appointed to study the CUNY Master Plan and make recommendations on the future of the City University.

Although Mr. Howe has not yet issued his final report, he found it necessary to make certain recommendations concerning "CUNY's most pressing needs," among which he included Hostos's lack of adequate facilities. The renovation of the 500 Grand Concourse Building was at the top of Mr. Howe's list of priorities.

In a memorandum dated October 19 to the mayor and City Council President Carol Bellamy, Controller Harrison J. Goldin, and City Council Majority Leader Thomas J. Cuite, Mr. Howe characterized the present Hostos facilities as "an insult to the

students and faculty required to use them."

"The students and faculty of Hostos," wrote Mr. Howe, "have suffered second-class citizenship in CUNY long enough."

Mr. Howe's recommendations were not limited to the renovation project alone. He pointed out that "The plan for renovation of 500 Grand Concourse is an interim plan looking forward to the eventual construction of a new campus for Hostos on land already owned in the South Bronx."

Mr. Howe also observed that the original \$3 million requested for the renovation may be inadequate because inflation has driven up construction costs. He concluded: "If another million dollars or so is needed to do the renovation properly, I would strongly urge its approval."

In addition, Mr. Howe addresses the long-term future of the college, an issue which has anguished the college community since 1976 when the Board of Higher Education voted to merge Hostos with Bronx Community College. Mr. Howe's statement concerning the issue was at

Continued on page 2

Self-Study Steering Committee Issues First Draft of Document

The Hostos Community College Self-Study Steering Committee has issued a rough draft of the college's self-study document, and is now in the midst of making extensive revisions and incorporating additional documentation.

Completed before the end of the spring 1978 semester and presented to the president and the deans during the summer for review, the draft is an appraisal of the college's performance since it received its initial accreditation in 1974. It also attempts to indicate the direction which the college hopes to take in the years ahead.

The work of the Steering Committee and the nine self-study subcommittees (each of which is responsible for a chapter in the final document) has been extensive. However, the fact that the college is

presently in the midst of considering a proposal to modify its academic structure and curricula has added another facet to the self-study process. In addition, the college has received a number of major grants this year which will affect the manner in which it will be providing educational services to its students. All this must be considered and evaluated in the final document.

It is a prodigious task, but the subcommittees have accepted the challenge and are revising the self-study draft, in some cases on a line-by-line basis. The revisions and a second draft are expected to be completed by the end of the first week in November. From then until the middle of December, the entire college community will have the opportunity to study the document and suggest

Continued on page 2

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Self-Study...

Continued from page 1

further changes and revisions. By early December, the chairman of the visitation committee from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools will visit the college and determine whether it is ready for the final visitation in the spring.

The visitation, which will occur in March, will last about four days, after which the visitation team will issue an oral report to the president and the self-study steering committee. In addition to a chairman, the team is made up of nine members, each of whom will be responsible for evaluating the areas of concern (curriculum, administration, student services, etc.) covered by the self-study document.

Shortly after the visitation, the team will issue a written report to the president of the college and the Middle States Association. The president will respond in writing to the report, furnishing additional documentation, if necessary.

The Middle States Association will then review all the reports involved in the re-accreditation process at its annual meeting in June. It will then decide whether to recommend re-accreditation to the Commission on Higher Education, the final accrediting agency. The Commission will issue its decision by mid- to late summer.

Acting President Anthony Santiago commented that "In view of the faculty's dedication and the work that's being done, and in view of the plans which are evolving for the future of the college, we fully expect the college to be re-accredited."

Open House...

Continued from page 1

college chorus under the direction of Prof. Graciela Rivera of the Visual and Performing Arts Department and a short concert of Caribbean music and poetry by the Dominican Student Association.

Among the distinguished guests were State Senator Olga Méndez, Councilman Gilberto Gerena-Valentin and Mr. Stuart Scheftel, member of the Board of Higher Education.

The Open House was planned and coordinated by the Admissions Office and the Office of College Relations and Development.

Students Show Their Stuff at X-Ray Seminar

The Radiologic Technology Department held its Eighth Annual Radiologic Seminar at Lincoln Hospital on October 13. The seminar was the latest in a series of such events that have served as showcases for the excellence of the Hostos radiologic technology program.

The event is more a competition than a scholarly seminar, although scholarship and academic excellence figure heavily in the outcome. The seminar consists of presentations by students representing each of the hospitals with which Hostos has affiliations, and this year the winning team was from Beekman Downtown Hospital which has fielded several winners since the seminars were begun. The title of their presentation was "The File Room, Integral Part of Quality Assurance." The students on the team were Imogene Hooker, Anilda López and Ramón Salles.

All this is not to say that the other teams did not make quality presentations. In fact, their presentations indicated that excellence and pride in their work are qualities that the Radiologic Technology Department has inculcated in all its students. Evidence of this is the fact that many of the program's graduates are now supervisors at hospitals throughout the city.

The seminar itself was coordinated by Prof. Cheryl Smith, advisor of the Hostos X-Ray Club over the last few years. Prof. Smith has accompanied Hostos students to similar seminars at national radiologic technology conventions. The Hostos students have traditionally done well on these occasions.

Delivering the opening remarks at the October 13 seminar was Mr. Martin Hibbel, president of the X-ray Club. Prof. Leroy Sparks, chairman of the department, welcomed the students, their families and guests, and Prof. Smith emceed the competition. At the beginning of the program, Prof. Beryl G. Henry, a member of the radiologic technology faculty, treated the audience to a rendering of the national anthem.

Mayor Approves...

Continued from page 1

once terse and emphatic: "We have reviewed the possibility that Hostos might be combined with Bronx Community College, and I do not recommend it."

In the meantime, the college has taken steps to alleviate its space crunch while the renovation of 500 Grand Concourse is under way. Over the summer, college administrators and faculty began searching for temporary space in the Grand Concourse and 149th Street vicinity, and in September the college received the approval of the local school board to use classroom space at I.S. 151 on 156th Street. Final approval was granted in October by the city's Board of Education.

A Parking Lot Becomes A Volleyball Court



Since the beginning of the fall 1978 semester, the Hostos parking lot has been converted into a recreation area for students and faculty. In November, student clubs took advantage of the new facility — and good weather — to hold a volleyball tournament which the Dominican Student Association won. Prof. Carmen Nilver of the Physical Education Department (standing near the net) was the referee; Prof. Dianne Penner coordinated the contest. The Physical Education Department has purchased basketball hoops and other recreational equipment which will be installed in the parking lot. Use of the lot as a recreational facility was proposed last year by Prof. Robert Taylor, chairman of the department.

Legal Defense Fund to Study Hispanics and Labor Market

As Hostos embarks on a process of implementing curricular changes and a series of major grant-supported projects to keep in tune with the job market, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) is beginning to research labor market problems affecting Puerto Ricans and other Hispanic Americans.

No one at Hostos can predict exactly what the PRLDEF will find, but it is more than likely that the research will show that just as Puerto Ricans are consistently underemployed and unemployed, so are they consistently undereducated. It is almost a certainty that the research will indicate that what is being done at Hostos should figure in the strategy to deal with employment problems affecting the city's Puerto Rican community. As everyone in the Hostos college community instinctively knows, education and training translate into jobs.

The PRLDEF's research project is being funded by a grant of \$90,000 from the United States Department of Labor. PRLDEF in conjunction with researchers from Columbia and Princeton Universities, will carry out a two-year analysis of the employment, wages and earnings of Puerto Ricans and Hispanic persons in the public and private sectors. It is expected that the research project will shed light on a subject which is often dimly perceived.

As the PRLDEF explained in an announcement of the research project, "The research may also

refute the notion that the group labeled 'Hispanic' in official data is essentially homogeneous and that the different groups comprised within the term 'Hispanic' face essentially similar labor market situations. The 1970 census suggests this assumption is invalid. It reports that the incidence of poverty is somewhat lower and the mean family income is somewhat higher for all Hispanics, taken as a group, than for blacks; however, Puerto Ricans and Mexican-Americans are more likely than blacks to be in poverty, and Puerto Ricans are the most severely disadvantaged of any minority group."

The PRLDEF is a non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting the rights of Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics on the U.S. mainland. In the past, the Fund has successfully challenged the discriminatory hiring practices of New York uniformed services, opening up jobs for hundreds of Puerto Ricans in the fire, police and sanitation departments. The Fund upheld the rights of migrant fruit pickers in Southern New Jersey to equitable working conditions and wages. It recently challenged discriminatory practices against Puerto Rican garment workers by unions and clothing manufacturers.

The Fund's president and general counsel is Mr. Jorge Batista, former deputy borough president of the Bronx and a long-time friend of the college. He is also a member of the New York Board of Regents.

College Community Reacts to Curriculum Committee Report

The report of the Special Curriculum Review Committee, distributed among students, faculty and staff in late September, has stimulated keen interest and discussion among the college community.

In this respect, the Special Curriculum Review Committee, appointed last spring by Acting President Anthony Santiago, has served its intended purpose.

"The report," said President Santiago, "is a catalyst for action. It is a starting point for the decision-making bodies of the college, a guide to serve us as we make decisions concerning the trajectory of the college in the years ahead."

The college community was given the opportunity to react to the report during hearings held at the nearby Savoy Manor Ballroom on October 19. It will be presented to the Hostos College Senate's Curriculum Committee, and President Santiago will soon name another committee, composed of students, faculty and members of the Senate to continue the work that has been started.

Certainly one of the issues which commanded particular attention at the college-wide hearing was the recommendation to increase the career programs at the college. The feeling expressed by some students and faculty was that, if the proposal were implemented, the college might be transformed into a vocational school.

Members of the Special Curriculum Review Committee responded by pointing out that there was misunderstanding concerning the definitions of vocational and career programs. They indicated that the major difference between the two was that

career programs include Liberal Arts components, thereby making them legitimate higher educational programs. All of Hostos's programs, they emphasized, would retain many Liberal Arts course offerings, even though they offered so-called "terminal" Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees.

The issue of "terminal" degrees, in fact, was a principal focus of the hearings. Some students and faculty indicated that they feared that A.A.S. degrees would track graduates into "dead-end" jobs. Members of the committee emphasized that, while the A.A.S. degree programs prepare students for work immediately after graduation, they do not prevent students from continuing their educations at four-year colleges. They added that the A.A.S. degree was, in fact, an advantage in that it allows the student to work in a given profession while he or she continues studies in that profession or in a related field. An example of such a student would be a graduate of the radiologic technology program who works days at a hospital while he or she goes on for a four-year degree in radiologic technology or even in health administration.

There are many examples of students who have done exactly that: Sharon Hill, a graduate of the secretarial science program, went on to Lehman College where she obtained a baccalaureate degree from the Lehman Business Education Department. (In the process, she was voted the outstanding student teacher in secondary education at Lehman.) Mr. Sam Saunders, former president of the Hostos student government and a graduate of the radiologic technology

program, went on for a degree in health administration at Stony Brook, and is now director of several health centers in the Bronx. Moreover, Dr. Ursula Schwerin, president of New York City Community College, is a dental hygiene graduate of NYCC. And Dr. Leon Goldstein, president of Kingsborough Community College, is a graduate of the hotel management program at NYCC.

"The point is that no career program is a dead end for our graduates," said Acting President Santiago. "In fact, there is no reason to believe that a career program graduate will have fewer options than a liberal arts graduate. What we want is to provide our students with as many options and choices as possible. That is the business of a community college, and Hostos is a community college."

Indeed, one of the issues raised at the hearings was the definition and nature of a community college. In comparison with community colleges across the nation, Hostos is exceptional in that four out of every five of its students are in the Liberal Arts while the national norm is one out of every three. If the Curriculum Review Committee's recommendation of establishing a 50-50 distribution of students between career programs and the Liberal Arts were adopted, Hostos would still be unique among community colleges.

It is worth noting that, prior to the retrenchment of the nursing department and the curtailment of the medical laboratory technology program, roughly 40 percent of Hostos students were in career programs. And, when the college was founded in 1968, it was expected that as many as

70 percent of Hostos's students would be in career programs.

"We should not lose sight of the fact that career programs are the province of the community college," said Acting President Santiago. "And we should not forget that, as a community college, we are responsible for meeting the many different educational needs of the communities we are obligated to serve."

Ultimately, the college must respond to the educational demands of the residents of the South Bronx and similar communities which it serves, and the indication is that the demand for career programs is not being altogether met. According to the Hostos admissions office, more and more prospective students have expressed interest in career programs, especially in radiologic technology, dental hygiene and bilingual secretarial science. The curriculum Review Committee's report recommends the expansion of these programs, including business and accounting and other programs which will prepare students for the job openings projected for the 1980's.

The issue of the combination or reorganization of academic departments also received attention during the hearings on the Curriculum Review Committee's report. Although the City University has established no criteria on just what constitutes an academic department, the committee felt that it did not make administrative sense to maintain departments with one or two faculty members. It accordingly recommended that African studies, Civil and Public Service and Physical Sciences be combined with other departments.

Local Banks Make Donations

Chasing the federal and state grant dollar, as Hostos did so successfully last year, requires trips to Washington and Albany and that, in turn, requires money...money the college does not have.

Stepping in to solve the problem, however, have been two local banks which donated travel money so that Hostos administrators can make the required trips to the national and state capitals this year. (The money was also earmarked for general development purposes.) The banks are The Bankers Trust Company (which donated money last year) and the Dollar Savings Bank. The college

community is most appreciative of their generosity.

The total amount donated last year was \$1,300. This year Bankers Trust donated \$750 and Dollar Savings donated \$500. In addition, Bankers Trust donated \$100 to cover part of the photographic budget for the production of *El Coqui*.

Bankers trust, in fact, has come to the aid of Hostos in other ways. Last fall, the bank offered to buy a special issue of State Dormitory Authority bonds to fund the renovation of the 500 Grand Concourse Building because the authority was not able to sell bonds on the public market.

Reminder: Nutrition Center Open

Prof. Shirley Hinds, chairman of the Urban Health Studies Department, wishes to remind the college community that her department has opened a Nutrition Information Center in Room 418 of the 475 Grand Concourse Building.

Under the direction of Prof. Carlos Hernández, the center will help students and faculty to: choose judiciously among the many types of foods available in local markets;

plan diets which will help them lose or gain weight; know all about food additives and "natural" foods; steer themselves and their families away from "junk" and "fast" foods; and cook economical yet enticing meals.

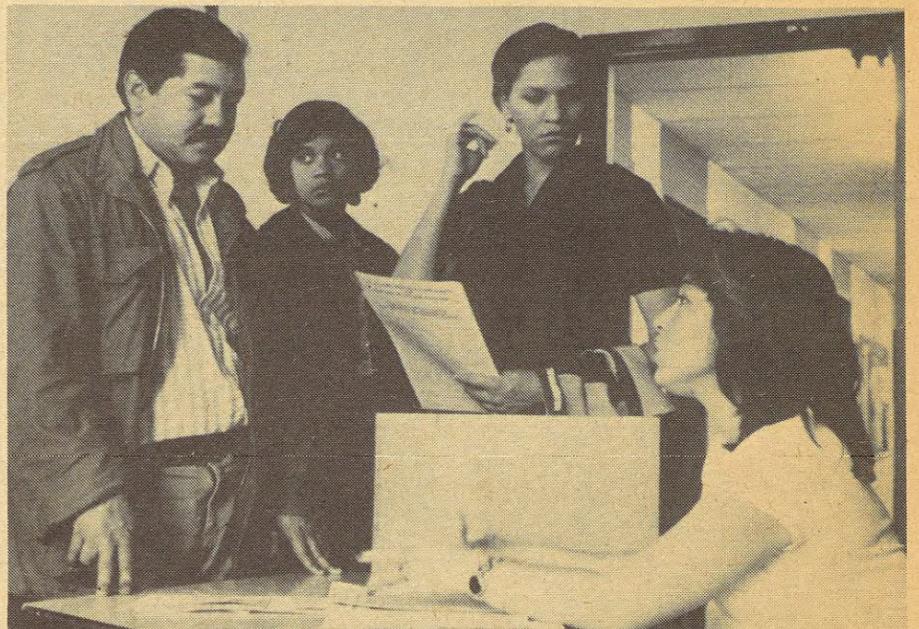
Students and faculty who wish to take advantage of the services provided by the Nutrition Information Center should stop by the center or call Prof. Hernández on extension 1087.

A Hearty Welcome to Dental Hygiene Freshmen



The Hostos chapter of the Junior American Dental Hygiene Association (JADHA) held its annual welcome party for the freshmen dental hygiene students in October. This year, the freshmen were assigned upperclass "big sisters" who will provide orientation and guidance to the freshmen throughout the year. On hand to welcome the freshmen (above) were, from left: Maryann Manieri; Prof. Ernestine Leach, faculty advisor of JADH; Karen Roberts, party chairman; Geraldine Perri, JADHA chapter president and daughter of Hostos dental hygiene graduate Gilda Perri; Vera Banks, treasurer; and Roseann Tavolacci, class representative. The party included welcome speeches by JADHA officers and faculty members, followed by a buffet supper and dancing.

Scenes of the Hostos Open House



Hostos held its best attended Open House on October 14. Clockwise, from upper left, Prof. Edward Armas of the Business and Accounting Department informs prospective students of the career opportunities which are expected to open up in business in the next decade; Ms. Ramonita Maldonado of the Admissions Office explains admissions procedures to prospective students; a group of youngsters take their fill of the refreshments served at the Open House; and State Senator Olga Mendez and Acting President Anthony Santiago confer during a lull in the program.



News Briefs

Prof. Clara Velázquez, director of the English-as-a-second-language program, presented a lecture on the role of communities in the establishment of bilingual education programs at a special conference on bilingual education sponsored by the New York State Department of State at D'Jonville College in the Buffalo area. The conference was one of a series given throughout the state to assist school districts in setting up bilingual programs. Prof. Velázquez has done similar work in Puerto Rico recently. In October, she journeyed to San Juan to do consultant work for the Department of Education which is setting up bilingual programs for Puerto Rican children educated on the mainland who have little or no proficiency in Spanish. The effort is in response to the recent phenomenon of "return migration" in which Puerto Rican families are returning to the island because of unfavorable economic and social conditions on the mainland. Prof. Velázquez points out that like cities and municipalities in the U.S., the Commonwealth is obligated by federal law to provide bilingual educational opportunities to its "linguistic minority students"

who, ironically, are Puerto Ricans with little knowledge of their mother tongue.

Prof. Harcourt Carrington of the counseling staff presented a workshop on providing psychotherapeutic services on the college campus at the Sixth Annual All-Day Workshop of the Metropolitan College Mental Health Association which was held on November 11 in New York City.

Prof. Leslie Ault of the Social Sciences Department has completed a book, *The Official Book of Mastermind Puzzles*, which will be released in December. The work is a sequel to another book, *The Official Mastermind Handbook*, which explains the strategies involved in *Mastermind*, a game sweeping the country. Prof. Ault was the referee at the recent City University Mastermind Championships. He has been on several radio talk shows, including the Arlene Francis Show, discussing the intricacies of the game which calls upon the player to decipher codes. Prof. Ault will be attending the International Mastermind Championships in London in November where he will administer a battery of psychology test

to the contestants to see if there are any characteristics which set them apart from the general populations. (Prof. Ault has conducted extensive research on psychological and skills-testing procedures.)

Hostos graduate Radames Santos was one of twenty Puerto Rican artists who were invited to participate in an exposition of New York-based Puerto Rican artists which was held last May in West Germany. A selection of works from that exposition is now on view at the Galeria Oller-Campeche at 304 Park Avenue in Manhattan. Also among the artists participating in the West German exposition was Miguel Angel Guzman who, in 1975,

donated a four-panel mural entitled "History of Puerto Rico" to Hostos Community College. The work is on permanent display on the fifth floor of the 475 Grand Concourse Building.

Prof. Bette Kerr of the counseling staff has been elected chairman of the Barnard College Vocational Advisory Board for a three-year term. The board advises the president of Barnard on the job market opportunities for college graduates and the implications which these opportunities might have on the curriculum. As chairman of the advisory board, Prof. Kerr also plans alumnae conferences on career orientation and opportunities.

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