Save Hostos Campaign Increases Its Activities

The efforts of the Save Hostos Committee (SHC) have continued apace during November and December to the extent that now Hostos can rely on the support of numerous legislators, educators, alumni, community representatives, and others in its effort to assure its survival as a separate unit of the City University and the preservation of the University’s open admissions policy.

The SHC’s petition and outreach subcommittee, for example, has begun to circulate bilingual petitions among students, faculty, alumni, Hostos’s vendors, and community agencies and legislators. The petitions, which call for the survival of Hostos and the open admissions policy as it is presently implemented, will be directed to the Board of Higher Education and other appropriate audiences.

Among the legislators who have agreed to sign the petition are: State Assemblymen José Serrano, Armando Montano, Seymour Posner, Angelo del Toro, and Vincent A. Marchiselli; State Senators Israel Ruiz, Robert García, John D. Calandra, and Joseph L. Galiber; Councilmen Ramón S. Vélez, and Louis R. Gigante; and Congressmen Jonathan Bingham and Charles Rangel.

All friends of the college are welcome to sign the petition. Copies can be obtained from Prof. Selena James of the dental hygiene department who heads the petition and outreach subcommittee. She can be reached in room 506 of the Grand Concourse building or call 993-8000, ext. 242.

The petition and outreach subcommittee is also participating in a CUNY-wide effort to tap the university’s alumni for support during the fiscal crisis.

The SHC’s voter registration subcommittee is directing letters to legislators who represent sizable numbers of Hostos students. The subcommittee chairman, Prof. Diane Penner of the physical education department, adds that a voter registration drive will be conducted at the college in January by faculty and student volunteers. In the event that voter registration cannot be conducted at the college, the subcommittee will distribute information on voter registration.

(continued on page 3)

Students, Faculty Protest Cuts And Possible Merger or Closing

Hostos students, faculty, and staff turned out in the hundreds during November to voice protests against City University budget cuts and persisting threats that the college may be merged or closed.

The first protest, held on November 19 in the banking district of the South Bronx near the “Hub,” saw some 1,000 members of the college and local communities shout their displeasure with the threats facing Hostos. The protest began with a column of students and faculty which marched from the college to the “Hub” where it was joined by other community groups, most notable of which were contingents from the South Bronx Community Corporation, Roberto Clemente High School, and Lehman College.

The demonstration was organized by the Community Coalition to Save Hostos, a number of student organizations including the Federation of Puerto Rican Socialist Students, and the Hostos chapter of the Professional Staff Congress.

(continued on page 6)
ESL Council Meets At Hostos

Due largely to the reputation which Hostos Community College has gained in the field of bilingual education, the City University's English-as-a-second-language Council has recently sponsored two workshops on developing ESL materials at the college.

Conducted by the Hostos ESL staff on October 5, the first workshop focused on how the college has developed a number of alternate modes of instruction for its ESL students. The college has in fact produced some 10 video tapes for its advanced and intermediate ESL students; a host of slide and film strip lessons which are based on content courses; and a number of writing lessons based on color prints.

"There is a general feeling that in order to produce materials one must be a professional media expert or extremely talented," says Prof. Clara Velázquez, director of the Hostos ESL program. "But, really, if you have your lesson plan prepared, you already have the material for an audio-visual presentation. .  . It's like a script."

"And," she continues, "that's what we wanted to convey at the workshop—that it's easy to prepare your materials."

Participating in the October 5 workshop were Profs. Rosemary Benedeto, Linda Hirsch, Barbara Murray, José Keyes, and Anita Wenden, a former adjunct professor at Hostos.

Held on November 21, the second workshop delved into Hostos's testing and placement practices for ESL students. Much to the college's credit, the workshop was attended by representatives from all the undergraduate units of the City University.

“Our testing and placement procedures have come a long way,” says Prof. Velázquez. “We can be proud of that.”

Prof. Velázquez points out that various colleges, including Rochester and Essex Community Colleges as well as Columbia University, have asked to use the Hostos testing instruments.

The November 21 workshop was conducted by Profs. Velázquez and Keyes and Assistant Dean of Students Peter B. Martin, who has been instrumental in developing the Hostos testing procedures.

The Hostos ESL staff will be participating in a conference sponsored by the CUNY ESL Council in January. That conference is itself in preparation for this spring’s conference of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), a national organization. The Hostos staff will make a presentation on alternate modes of instruction.

Hostos Has Highest Percentage Of Older Students in N. Y. State

Among the 42 two-year colleges in New York State, Hostos Community College has the highest percentage of full-time students who are 25 years of age or older, according to a report issued in November by the State University's Office of Institutional Research.

Entitled “Age, Group, and Sex of Students, Fall 1974,” the report states that 49.3 per cent of the college's full-time students are 25 years of age or older.

The figure not only shows who the Hostos constituency is, but also clearly indicates how the college would be affected should the City University's open admissions policy be curtailed by giving preference to recent high school graduates.

“The data,” says Assistant Dean of Students Peter B. Martin, "supports the commitment Hostos Community College has to serving adults and indicates the devastating effects the Kibbee proposal would have for Hostos and for other adults in CUNY."

Six of the eight City University colleges are among the top ten two-year colleges in the state in enrollments of full-time students who are 25 years of age or older. Following is a list of the top ten colleges with the percentage of full-time students who are 25 years of age or older:

1. Hostos C.C. (49.3 percent)
2. Rockland C.C. (45.0 percent)
3. Boro of Manhattan C.C. (38.1 percent)
4. Westchester C.C. (36.7 percent)
5. Bronx C.C. (31.3 percent)
6. New York City C.C. (29.8 percent)
7. Kingsborough C.C. (27.2 percent)
8. Clinton C.C. (20.4 percent)
9. Staten Island C.C. (17.9 percent)
10. Genesee C.C. (16.9 percent)

The SUNY report on community college enrollment also indicated that Hostos is a relatively small college; it ranks 25th out of 42 among two-year colleges in total full-time enrollment.

Coalition Wins Student Election

An electoral ticket fielded by the Hostos Student Coalition, an organization formed early this fall by representatives of several Hostos student organizations, was overwhelmingly elected to the student government after extensive balloting in November.

The margin, for example, between the Coalition’s (continued on page 6)
Prof. Gizis Is Appointed Dean of Arts and Sciences Division

Prof. Evangelos Gizis, one of the first faculty members at Hostos Community College, has been appointed, effective November 1, Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division. He had been serving as acting Dean of Arts and Sciences since December 1974.

Dean Gizis has been with Hostos since April 1970, well before the college opened its doors to its charter class. In fact, he was the first chairman of the physical sciences department. And, between March 1972 and December 1974, he served as Assistant Dean for Instruction and Associate Dean of Faculty.

Says Dean Gizis, “My principal goal as Dean of Arts and Sciences is to make sure that the students in the division have the skills that are on a level with the credit given for the courses they have taken. In other words, we must insure that the students acquire all the skills that are implied by the credit they have earned.”

“And,” continues Dean Gizis, “it is most important that we have a variety of ways in which a student can learn. . . . We must continue individualizing our instruction. We should not lose sight of that goal.”

Dean Gizis points out that individualized instruction is particularly important for the great number of Hostos students who have returned to their studies after years in the working world. He adds that individualized instruction should be coupled with sound and comprehensive academic advisement.

He concludes that, although the fiscal crisis is threatening the mission of the college, “we do have the resources to do the job we’re supposed to do.”

A native of Greece, Dean Gizis holds an M.S. in chemistry from Athens University, an M.S. in food science from Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. in food science and biochemistry, also from Oregon State.

His career includes a balance of research and teaching at such institutions as Brookhaven National Laboratory, Mellon Institute, Michigan State University, and Oregon State University. The greater part of Dean Gizis’s work has been conducted in the area of vitamin B12 binding proteins. His work is recognized to the extent that he is listed in several national biographical listings. He is a member of the American Institute of Nutrition and the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. Dean Gizis has some 28 publications to his credit.

Save Hostos . . . (continued from page 1)

The speakers’ bureau subcommittee of the SHC is currently arranging speaking engagements at community agencies and organizations for students and faculty. They will be apprising the community of the dangers facing the college. According to the subcommittee’s chairman, Assistant Dean of Students Louis Wheaton, hundreds of agencies and organizations have been contacted.

The subcommittee on contact with elected officials is currently mounting an extensive letter-writing campaign directed at pertinent public officials. The subcommittee chairman is Prof. Louis Browne of the biology department.

The publicity and finance subcommittee has begun collecting contributions from faculty and staff, and is sponsoring a Christmas benefit dance for all friends of the college. For tickets to the dance, contact Prof. Anita Cunningham, chairman of the dental hygiene department, in her office in the Concourse building or call 993-8000, ext. 242. The subcommittee has also placed a story on the formation of the SHC in several publicity outlets. It is also arranging for a press conference during which local legislators will sign petitions on behalf of the college.

Finally, the Save Hostos Committee endorsed and gave organizational support for a rally held at the Board of Higher Education on November 24. (See story on the rally in this issue.)

The committee also continues to seek the active support of the entire college community. Prof. Gerald Meyer, the Save Hostos Committee’s chairman, urges full participation of students and faculty. “It is possible,” he says, “for everyone to cooperate in this effort.” The activities of the Committee have been made possible by faculty and student contributions of free time and money.
Letters . . .

To the editor:

Educational opportunities for the adult citizens of our community will be denied if certain City University leaders are allowed to have their way. The CUNY Chancellor’s proposals curtailing the number of adults and holders of high school equivalency certificates from entering the University is blatantly discriminatory.

Where is it written, other than in the Chancellor’s proposals, that citizens over 18 years of age do not have the same rights for higher education in a public institution? Why should those citizens who, for no fault of their own, had to go out in order to eke out a living before they were out of their teens, now be told that they are not as worthy of a higher education than the recent high school graduate? Is this not a fine example of the victimized being made the victim?

The college community must reject this proposal or else we will all become a party to an unjust and discriminatory policy by a public institution which has no redeeming educational or humanitarian qualities to recommend it.

Anthony Santiago
Director, Community and Continuing Education

To the editor:

Leadership in nursing services, understanding of human behavior, and motivation to pursue further education have been some of the outstanding qualities exhibited by the graduates of Hostos’ nursing program. According to comments received by nursing staff from employment agencies, our graduates are demonstrating their ability to administer and supervise patient care.

We have graduates employed in almost every hospital in the Bronx and throughout the city. Some of them are in charge of such services as: Intensive care units, respiratory units, dialysis units, outpatient departments, evening and night staff, head nurses, and similar functions.

For example, Mrs. Ruth Greene, one of our first graduates, is the evening nurse at Hostos. Mrs. Greene completed the Bachelor of Science in nursing at Lehman College last June. She started the program for Physicians Associate this fall. And about ten of our graduates have completed the Bachelor of Science in nursing; many others are about to complete it.

We feel that if Hostos Community College is closed, the city will be deprived of the valuable contribution of professional registered nurses from minority groups in the delivery of nursing care to the minorities.

Rosalina Vélez
Chairman, Nursing Department

Student Profile

‘Med Sec’ Graduates Do Well In Sr. College and on the Job

Hilda Lawrence and Rosa Rosario, graduates of the Hostos medical secretarial science program, are representative of the Hostos student body in several ways: They are both of Puerto Rican parentage, they are adults with families of their own, and they both resumed their studies after spending some time in the working world.

Hilda and Rosa are also representative of the career options open to graduates of the medical secretarial science program. Whereas Hilda has secured a solid job in the surgery department at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, Rosa has chosen to continue her studies at Lehman College where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business education.

Born and reared in Puerto Rico until the age of eight, Hilda moved to New York—and the Lower East Side—with her parents and five sisters. She attended Seward Park High School where she took up a commercial course in which she did so well that, in her senior year, she was voted the best secretarial student by the faculty. And then, like so many Hostos students, she went straight to work with little thought about going to college.

Rosa, too, was born in Puerto Rico and moved to New York (in this case to the South Bronx) at an early age. She attended the local schools, schools which have become familiar to many Hostos students: P.S. 42, Benjamin Franklin Junior High School, and Walton High School. Immediately following graduation from high school, she went to work, married, and, before long, bore her first child.

In time, Hilda heard from her high school counselor about “this new college in the South Bronx that was about to open, this place called Hostos,” and she soon found herself among a select group: the charter class of Hostos Community College.

“Let me be honest about what it was like then,” says Hilda about the fledgling college. “It was very disorganized, and I was very disappointed. There was construction going on, and there was lots of confusion.”
Disillusioned, Hilda was back at work as a secretary within a year.

But Hilda was soon to marry a man, who like Rosa's husband, was "very encouraging." Says Hilda, "I owe everything to the positive thinking of my husband; he wanted me to finish college." And Rosa adds: "My husband... was always pushing me." So both women soon found themselves in Hostos doing exceptional work.

Then in 1974 during her second try at Hostos, Hilda found "a great change." "Things were much better, much more organized," she says. She was able, for example, to take advantage of the testing out procedures which allow the medical secretarial science student to advance once she can demonstrate that she has mastered a given objective. In effect, Hilda, who was by then an experienced secretary, did not have to languish in elementary courses. She completed the course of study in a year.

Rosa, too, did well. She had also worked as a secretary so that, as she puts it, "I had a jump on things; I moved right along."

Both Rosa and Hilda are quick to point out that the program is nevertheless demanding. "It was a lot of work, a lot of work," says Rosa. But she and Hilda say that they received plenty of help from their classmates, who were also willing to quiz and tutor each other through a particularly difficult task or lesson. Mutual self-help has indeed become a tradition among Hostos students.

"The teachers were great, too," adds Hilda. "Oh, they were demanding, sometimes they were even rough. But they were always there saying 'you're going to make it; you're going to make it.' " They did.

Today, Hilda holds down a responsible job at Mount Sinai where she occupies an office which is larger and grander than that of any of the deans at Hostos. Shortly after beginning work at Mount Sinai she was told that she was one of about 30 applicants for the job, and that she was chosen largely because of the comprehensive nature of the Hostos medical secretarial curriculum. Says Hilda, "I felt great when I heard that."

Rosa was also praised for the level of her preparation when she first spoke to her counselor at Lehman. As she relates it, "He said to me: 'May I ask you a question? They gave you a damn good education at Hostos. Why do you want to go back to school? You could be making good money now.' "

The answer to the counselor's question is that Rosa would like to teach the trade which she has learned, perhaps at her alma mater, Walton High School. Like so many Hostos graduates, she wants to "get back into the community."

While Rosa and Hilda were being interviewed for this profile, they learned of a recent proposal to curtail the admission of adults to the City University by giving preference to recent high school graduates. Having assumed their college studies some time after graduating from high school, both were deeply dismayed by the proposal.

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'Med Sec' . . . (continued from preceding page)

As Hilda so aptly put it, “I’m shocked. The people I met and made friends with [at Hostos] were adults who took it seriously. You know, people who know what it’s like to be out there working hard. . . . I don’t know what would have happened if I didn’t have the opportunity [to go to] Hostos.”

Coalition . . . (continued from page 2)

candidate for president, Alexis Colón, and his nearest opponent was better than four to one.

Members of the Coalition interpreted the results as a clear mandate for their policies: careful accounting of student government funds, further organization and amplification of the Coalition, and preservation of Hostos Community College and the City University’s policies of free tuition and open admissions.

The Coalition’s victorious ticket is as follows:

President: Alexis Colón
Vice-President: Freddie Pepper
Vice-President for University Affairs: James Vandenburg
Treasurer: Manuel Cosme
Recording Secretary: Nilsa Saníel
Corresponding Secretary: Noemi Vega
Members-at-large: Donato Caro, Armando Delgado, Delfina Nicoleau, Priscilla Norfleet, and Charles Smith
Chairman, Student Senate: Efrain Quintana
Secretary: Hiram Rosa
Chairman, Student Relations: Josefa Ouslan
Chairman, Social Affairs: Doris Rivera
Chairman, Grievance Committee: Petri Byrd
Chairman, Education Reform: Hector Ramírez
Freshman Representative: Ramon Virella
Chairman, Cultural Affairs: Carlos Matos
Members-at-large (Arts & Sciences): Luis Cordero, Ivan García, Juan Sánchez
Members-at-large (Health Sciences): Ambrosio Raro, Ricardo Cisneros, Carmen Mercado. (None of the Health Science students are members of the Student Coalition.)

Students . . . (continued from page 1)

A second demonstration was held at the Board of Higher Education on November 24 to impress upon the board, which was meeting at the time, the concern of students and faculty in regard to further cuts in the CUNY budget. A number of CUNY colleges were represented at the rally, although it was acknowledged that the Hostos contingent, which more than filled five buses, was the largest.

The demonstration at the board was sponsored and organized by the Save Hostos Committee and the Community Coalition to Save Hostos.

Second Annual Open House Is Held

Hostos Community College held its second annual Community Open House Celebration on Sunday, November 9. The event, according to Mr. Carlos Velázquez of the admissions office, was marked by a slight increase in attendance over last year’s Open House, and a show of particular interest by residents of the Bronx. By far, the bulk of attendance was from Bronx residents.

The Open House celebration was one in a series held at all the colleges in the City University. The Hostos Open House was geared to high school seniors and adults interested in study opportunities at Hostos as well as to all community residents who wished to know more about the college and the programs and services it offers.

On hand to receive the guests were representatives of each of the college’s departments, and tours of the college’s Grand Concourse facility were conducted by representatives of student organizations.

Faculty/Staff Notes . . .

Prof. Alvin Hollingsworth of the visual and performing arts department will appear on WNBC-TV’s December 14 segment of Positively Black. During the segment, which has already been taped, Prof. Hollingsworth will discuss his art exhibition, Eyes of the City, which was held at Borough of Manhattan Community College in November. Prof. Hollingsworth will also discuss the role and importance of Hostos and other community colleges in the City University system.

Four Hostos faculty members journeyed to Albany on November 6 to participate in a state-wide project to review guidelines for the evaluation of programs in two-year colleges. The faculty members are: Assistant Dean of Students Services Peter Martin, Prof. Rosalina Vélez, chairman of the nursing department, Mr. Harvey Harth, director of placement services, and Mr. Robert Tyler, director of cooperative education.

The project is sponsored by the Office of Occupational Education of the New York State Education Department and is conducted by the Cornell University Institute for Occupational Education. The project will continue through 1975–76, and a workshop on program evaluation is being planned for Hostos faculty. Dean Martin urges all those interested in participating in the workshop to contact him as soon as possible (room 209, ext. 325). Dean Martin is also serving on the advisory board for the state-wide project.

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Hostos Community College has never had the resources to sponsor an orchestra or a dance troupe, but a number of undaunted students and staff members have formed informal groups which allow them to satisfy their artistic longings. Above left, students and counselor Virginia Paris (center, rear), hone their musical talents under the tutelage of Manuel Gonzalez of the college staff (kneeling). Mr. Gonzalez gives lessons, free of charge, to members of the college community. Above right, student Bernard Riddick (center) leads a class of students and staff through a modern dance number. A member of a professional dance troupe, Mr. Riddick also volunteers his time to give the classes.

Notes . . . (continued from preceding page)

Profs. Arnold L. Trindade and Louis Browne of the biology and physical sciences departments respectively have submitted proposals for grants which are made available by the Minority Institutions Science Improvement program of the National Science Foundation (N.S.F.). Profs. Trindade and Browne submitted their proposals at the annual conference of the N.S.F. which was held in New York on October 15.

Prof. Gerald Meyer of the social sciences department served as a commentator during a conference entitled Perspectives on Southern Africa which was sponsored recently by the Southern African Resources Association. Prof. Meyer commented on a speech by the Hon. Aslim A. Salim, Tanzanian ambassador to the United Nations, in which he discussed the role of United States support for minority regimes in South Africa.

Prof. Meyer also led a panel discussion on developing strategies to save CUNY which was held at Hunter College in November. The discussion was part of a CUNY-wide teach-in sponsored by the Graduate Students’ Association. It was aired on WBAI radio.

Prof. Meyer also delivered a paper on the American trade union movement at a meeting of the Middle Atlantic Radical Historian’s Organization which was held in November at John Jay College.

Prof. Pablo Cabrera, chairman of the Puerto Rican studies department, directed the Public Broadcasting System’s Realidades series for the 1975-76 season. The only one of its kind in the country, the series tackles social, cultural, and political issues pertinent to Spanish-speaking communities in the United States.

The producer of the series, Humberto Cintrón, was a guest lecturer at a recent class hour of a course entitled New York: Puerto Ricans in Literature, which is offered by Prof. Carmen Marin of the Puerto Rican studies department. Mr. Cintrón’s lecture focused on the problems faced by young Puerto Rican writers in the United States, and was heavy with the lore, color . . . and tragedy of El Barrio.

Prof. Cecilia Black of the dental hygiene department has been assigned to a special task force of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) to develop multiple-choice test questions which will be used in a self-assessment program for practicing dental hygienists.

Prof. Black also headed the New York State delegation to the 52nd Annual Session of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association which was held recently in Chicago.

Profs. Harcourt A. Carrington and Bette Kaplan of the counseling staff presented a paper entitled “Counselor In-Service Training: A Weekly Seminar” at the tenth annual New York State Personnel and Guidance Association Conference which was held on October 27-29 at Kiamesha Lake, New York.

Mr. Harvey G. Harth, director of the career and placement office, participated in a seminar, Where Are the Jobs, Where Will They Be Tomorrow?, which was held at IBM’s New York City headquarters in November.

Mr. Harth and Prof. Michael Stimola of the counseling staff participated in a workshop on the career oppor-
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opportunities of disabled students which was held at the Institute of Occupational Education at the CUNY Graduate Center in November.

Prof. Dario Casado of the behavioral sciences department was a guest lecturer at the November 26 meeting of Brooklyn College’s Circulo Psicológico, a bilingual psychology club. During the lecture, Prof. Casado, demonstrated the art of hypnosis and discussed its therapeutic uses.

Prof. Patricia Parzycli, chairman of the medical secretarial science department, gave a speech on the systems approach at Hostos and how to reinforce English skills in typing class at the SUNY Secretarial Educators annual meeting which was held in Rochester on November 7–8.

Prof. Graciela Rivera of the Puerto Rican studies department was featured on the program of the First Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Festival which was held on September 12 at the Garden State Arts Center in New Jersey.

Prof. Clara Torres, director of the IRD’s media production unit, held an open house on November 3 in the media production facility for faculty and staff interested in producing their own instructional materials. In addition to introducing faculty to the IRD’s media facilities, the open house was held to show faculty how to get the most out of their limited media production budgets.

Dean of Student Services Mary Howard was recently elected president of the Adult Student Personnel Association, Inc., an organization concerned with the provision of support services for adult students.

John A. Williams, a well-known Black novelist, gave a lecture and ran a creative writing workshop on October 31 for the Hostos Organization of Writers, a student group advised by Prof. Shirley Lim of the English department.

Prof. Herbert Aptheker of the social sciences department will be giving a series of 14 seminars on the “Life and Writings of W.E.B. DuBois” at Yale University during the spring 1976 semester. Prof. Aptheker’s seminars will be the latest in Yale’s Master Seminar series which has traditionally been reserved for the most illustrious American scholars.

Prof. Aptheker is the editor of The Complete Works of DuBois (Kraus-Tohnison Co., pub.) which are in 40 volumes, ten of which have been released. He has also edited The Correspondence of DuBois (University of Massachusetts, pub.), the first volume of which was released in 1973. Volume two will be released in the spring of 1976; the third and final edition is now being prepared.