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. Anhur 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 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 they made for the students' success.

(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 emancipated students. These are students who are independent of their parents or guardians, and who have been granted permission to be away from home. These students are defined as emancipated students if they are twenty-two years old or older, and are financially independent from his or her parents.

It is not entirely clear what effect the limitation of TAP will have on Hostos. The proportion of emancipated students at the college could change by September as more high school age students enter the college. The impact of the limitation would thus be lessened.

But the implication of the change is clear: Older students—and Hostos has consistently attracted this student population—will have to find new avenues to pursue their dental hygiene education if they are to receive assistance.

(Continued on page 2)

College Community Mourns Death of Dr. Raoul Pérez

As this issue of El Coqui 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)
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 ever.) So I decided, 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 mother, my 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, and my sister, Cuchi and Abby and I had left Puerto Rico. “Isla del Encanto.” It’s always written in the ad in the subway, El Diario, Latino NY, and all others. Isla del encanto for whom? Isla del Encanto for all the unemployed (close to 40% of the population, I understand)? Isla del Encanto for all those 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 do have at the local “tienda” with food stamp?

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, Alburz 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 Rico it’s called. And I said to myself, “Repeat after me, I pledge allegiance to the flag...”

The cultural shock wasn’t as great as it probably would’ve been, I had prepared myself psychologically by talking to friends who had been to the island many times. Someone had told me there was electricity in my computer. Oh yes, I was prepared to see the usual Burger Kings, Woolworth’s, J.C. Penneys and good ole McDonalds. 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 an improving knowledge of self as a people.

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

My compadres took me around the island. I saw more of Puerto Rico, I think, than anyone can see in 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 year resembles 34th Street and 8th Avenue. It’s beautiful. From the beaches of Guánica (where the American soldiers first invaded the island) to the mountains of Aibonito, from the northern coast towns of Arceibo and Barceloneta to the east coast of Fajardo.

It’s 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 an individual, but I will do what I can to steal the sandman’s bag and wake up as many of my compatriots as I can!

TAP... (Continued from page 1)

ways of financing their educations.

In the meantime, the City Univer-

sity's central office has developed plans to lobby for a number of items included in the state's supplementary budget. According to Prof. T. David Fox-

worthy, special assistant to the presi-

dent for legislative affairs, the items included are as follows:

...A change in the University's funding formula which would insure full funding for CUNY's community colleges. As 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 guaran-
tee full funding regardless of what the city's contribution finally is.

...An additional $2.8 million to an-

nualize the new contract with the city's contribution finally is.

...An additional $2.8 million to in-

stitute the university-wide "sophomore exam."

...An additional $1 million to im-

plement a new computerized central accounting system.

...An additional $500,000 to con-

tinue 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.

Increasingly popular during the last few semesters (registration and ap-

plications have been steadily increas-

ing), the secretarial science department also showed during its National Sec-

retarial Week Seminar on April 27 that it was proud of its achievements and victories.

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

Commenting on the floral ar-

rangements which decorated the stu-

dent lounge on 151st Street where the seminar was held, Prof. Patricia Par-

zych, chairman of the department, said: "The best bouquet of flowers are the students who starred as stars and are now blooming," as they approach graduation.

Greetings the president was Victor Cándido de León who recalled the im-

portance of a single secretary in the beginning of Hostos Community Col-

lege. 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 fledg-

ling 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. Granrier, 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 of the requirements which Mount Sinai and other medical institutions make of their prospective secretaries and gave many tips on how to find excellent positions in the working world. Mr. Granrier neglected to men-

tion that they had found those posi-

tions through his office.

The National Secretarial Week Seminar was also an occasion for recog-

nizing 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 contribu-

tions and service to the secretarial science department were Petra Alvarez and Diane Casanova. A special “appreciation award” was given to the department’s secretary, Margaret Walker, whom Prof. Parzych referred to as “the best secretary at the col-

lege.”

The mistresses of ceremonies at the seminar was Prof. Lucille Pratt; Prof. Faye Carson presented the awards.

Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gialis closed the ceremony by congratulating the department’s senior students and wishing them many future successes.

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

Secretarial Science Department

Holds Weekly Secret Seminar

Secretarial Science Department

Holds Weekly Secret Seminar

President Cándido de León addresses audience of students, faculty and staff during secretarial science seminar.
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 according to Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gizis, who presides over the meetings of the Hostos curriculum, changes which will be 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 heart of the curricular changes is the establishment of the faculty of what level according to Dean of Faculty Evangelos Gizis, who presides over the meetings of the Hostos curriculum, changes which have been the subject of intensive discussion during the Council's meetings throughout the present academic year.

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 cooperation 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 allow 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 performance objectives will be over 37,000 students.

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 the 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 Letch of the dental hygiene staff. Once they had assembled at the rear of the stage at Lehman's Gilette Auditorium, Prof. James and Mrs. Letch 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 Almendros, Laura Antonio, Margaret Balsamalo, Laura Berkley, Evelyn Calderon, Lori Cerullo, Celia de Jesus, Kathleen Dorrman, Ingrid Doyle, Geraldine Gligko, Marie Guisardi, Diane Green, Kathleen Higgins, Nursaides Jarrett, Janis Kirk, Clara McNell, Silvia Mirthes, Diane Naisole, Millagros Pabellon, Carol Perez, Hilda Quiles, Beth Rubin, Joel Russ, Cherry, Sobel, Rosann Tavolacci, Mabel Thomson, Nancy Witzman and Ceci Pittman, the one gentleman in the freshman class.

The ceremony was followed by a reception for students, their parents and spouses, faculty and guests.
DENTAL HYGIENE AND SECRETARIAL ACTIVITIES: During April and early May, dental hygiene and secretarial science departments held cupping ceremonies and annual seminars. From left, above, Ms. Ernesteine Leach and Prof. Selena James (cap student; dental hygiene freshman awaits beginning of cupping ceremony; Prof. Faye Carson presents award to Rosemary Santiago, "outstanding" secretarial student; and Rosa Colon of college relations staff sports corsage given to all secretaries by secretarial department on the occasion of Secretarial Day.

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. His 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 teaching career in the trade union movement at the university as well as in 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 African-American 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 Maria Elena Muntiz has published some of her work in the most recent College Poetry Review, a publication which appears twice a year and presents the work of students across the country. Ms. Muntiz has published her poetry in other student publications, including Ecos/Echos, 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 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 of the minority presence in higher education.

Letter Grading... (Continued from page 3) Performance 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 initiated 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 Giria 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

Prof. Gerald Meyer Social Sciences