**President de León to Resign Effective the End of August**

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. Barron, 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 program.

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**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 he or she is twenty-two years old or older, and is 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 procedures 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 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..."
The following contribution is from Victor Vázquez, vice-president of the Hostos Student Government Organization.

I was off on 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 and already, I noticed people looking out the windows. I looked overhead and noticed that the "No smoking" and "Fasten seatbelts" lights were on. We were about to land. It was then that I realized how close I was to home.

When? Funny, I was born and raised in New York, the Big Apple, but, no, this is real 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 George, 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, La Nación, 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) who are seeking to develop those skills and abilities of their own to chart a course for their own futures.

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 as follows:

A change in the University's funding formula which would insure full funding for CUNY's community college budget. The change in the funding formula would guarantee full funding regardless of 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.

A phased-in additional $5 million a year 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.

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 and 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.

Greasing the president was President Cándido de León who recalled the importance of a single secretary in the activities of the college.

He recalled that in 1969-70, when plants 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 adm.

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

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

President de León submitted his resignation to Chancellor Robert 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 Candido 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 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.

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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 the 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 Gilette Auditorium, Prof. James and Mrs. Leach lit 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 Antionette, Margaret Balsamello, Laura Berkley, Evelyn Calderon, Lori Cirvello, Celso de Jesus, Kathleen Dormfan, Ingrid Doyle, Geraldine Giglio, Marie Gisoni, Diane Green, Kathleen Higgins, Narsadies Jarrett, Janis Kirk, Clara McNeill, Silvia Mirthes, Diane Natale, Milagros Pabellon, Arlos Peña, Hilda Quiles, Beth Rubin, Joel Russ, Cherry, Sobel, Roseann Tavolacci, Mabel Thomasson, 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.

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:

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<th>Program</th>
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INTERPRETING THE "NEW SONG": The "Grupo Cultural Faenza," 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.
Hostos Community College
475 Grand Concourse
Bronx, N.Y. 10451

Pro. Gerald Meyer
Social Sciences

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. Ernestine Leach and Prof. Selena James 'cap' student; dental hygiene freshmen await 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.

Letter Grading...
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