

The S·D·E·M Gazette



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT + ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT • Fall 2019



Welcome to the Fall 2019 Academic Semester

Welcome to the Fall 2019 semester! The start of a new academic year is an exciting time, and I look forward to welcoming you to the campus community.

As we start the new academic year, I want to first take this opportunity to thank the members of our divisions for their hard work and dedication. Many of our Division's accomplishments would not have been possible without your team work and collaboration. And let's not forget the partnerships with our sister divisions. It's because of you that Hostos continues to move forward providing vital services and access to higher education for our community.

Last week we greeted upwards of 1,900 new students from the tri-state area and welcomed back approximately another 4,000 returning students eager to start another academic year.

This week we begin programming to engage and support our students—*look out for weekly updates from The Link.*

In the fall 2019 issue of the Gazette we highlight the importance of health and wellness, physical fitness, academic achievement, and our very own Student Success Coach Karina Guardiola-Lopez's poetry.

In the upcoming year our Strategic Plan will continue to focus on enrollment and retention. I am looking forward to a successful and fruitful semester.

Best Wishes,

Nathaniel Cruz

Vice President for Student Development & Enrollment Management

OP-ED

KICKING OFF THE FALL WITH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

When we think about success in college, typically we think about good grades, getting internships, landing a leadership role, or even graduating. Sometimes, we get so focused on reaching these goals that we compromise our personal well-being. The fact is, it's hard to accomplish any of our achievements if we don't take care of ourselves.

Health and Wellness is very excited to kick off the Fall 2019 semester with several wellness activities. We have partnered with Shape Up NYC, offering free Afro-Caribbean dance classes, open to students, staff and the community. Classes are held every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the dance studio. To start off the academic year educating the Hostos community on the importance of living healthy lifestyles, we have moved our Wellness festival to the Fall semester. The Wellness Festival will be held on September 26th from 10-3pm on the Bridge. We are also collaborating with The Counseling Center to diversify health service providers to include mental health.

Did you know:

- Flu season is right around the corner! We know how busy the beginning of the semester gets, so we're bringing the flu vaccine to you. Walgreens/Duane Reade will be on campus on 9/10; 9/23; 10/21; and 10/22. Please look out for the flyer for the times and locations.
- There is an emergency blood shortage in NY! Please do your part by participating in our Campus Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 4th from 11-5pm.

We wish our entire campus community a healthy start to the academic year.

—Fabián Wander, *Director, Health & Wellness*



Key Student Dates to Keep in Mind and Share:

SSCU Weeks of Welcome (W.O.W) begins September 11th
Freshmen Pledge: Thursday, September 26th

Last Days to...

- drop for 50% tuition refund- Monday, September 9th
- drop for 25% tuition refund- Monday, September 16th
- withdraw from a course with a grade of W- Tuesday, November 5th

ERIK SMILES, NEW ATHLETIC MANAGER

Erik Smiles has been selected to lead the Hostos Community College Athletic Department.

Smiles comes to Hostos Community College after 17 years in college athletics as both an administrator and successful college basketball coach.

“I am honored to be given this incredible opportunity” says Smiles. “I look forward to working closely with our student athletes, coaches and college faculty and staff to position the Caimans for continued success and expansion.”

Prior to coming to the Hostos Community College Smiles spent six years at Long Island University (2013–2019) serving as the Athletic Facility Coordinator. Smiles was also the Head Men’s Basketball Coach where he was responsible for implementing a comprehensive recruitment plan, academic retention of student athletes, budgeting and fundraising. In that six year stretch Smiles coached his team to four playoff appearances and coached seven all East Coast Conference players, four 1,000 point scorers and his teams were recognized multiple times as having the highest GPA of all varsity men’s teams at Long Island University.

A native of Huntington, New York, Smiles played basketball collegiately at the University of Bridgeport and graduated in 2001. Smiles currently resides in North Babylon, New York, with his wife, Kay, and their two daughters, Samantha and Skylar.

Help us give a warm Hostos welcome to Erik!



SDEM Welcomes You! New Hires as of July 2019...

Counseling Services

Isalia Crespo, *Mental Health Counselor*

Robert Rivera, *Mental Health Counselor*

SSCU

Eric Rinklin, *Junior Coach*

Edwin Diaz, *Foundation Coach*

Theudys Mejia, *Foundation Coach*

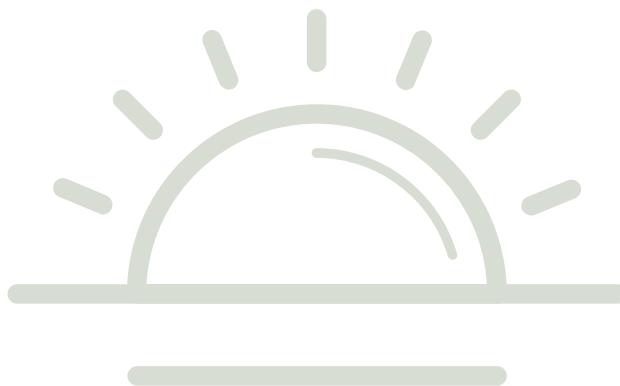
Jennifer Reynoso, *Junior Coach*

Financial Aid

Nicholas Valente, *FA Specialist*

John Pierre Ricketts, *FA Advisor*

Jimmy Ng, *FA Advisor*



Champions, Again!

Call it “Bronx Madness,” because the Caimans women’s basketball team of Hostos Community College (CUNY) are national champions once again.

On March 16, the No. 1 ranked Caimans successfully defended their NJCAA Division-III title after a 73-63 win over the No. 3 Owens Community College Express (Ohio). The victory made Hostos the only NJCAA D-III community college team in New York City history to have captured three national titles in both men’s and women’s basketball combined. Hostos’ men’s team won it all in 2005. Hostos is also now the only CUNY college with a men’s and women’s national basketball championship.

The Caimans finished the season 29-5, becoming the first team to capture back-to-back NJCAA Division-III titles since Rock Valley College (Rockford, Ill.) in 2012 and 2013. Last year’s tournament win made the Caimans the first women’s community college team in CUNY to win a national title.

“It’s a dream that not very many people in the game of basketball don’t ever have the opportunity to achieve,” said head coach DeVernie Winston. “We’ve done it not just once but twice. It is a testament to the hard work and faith that our staff and student-athletes have committed to the program in the last four years.”

Hostos President David Gómez said he was proud of his student-athletes for their dedication. “While I’m so proud of their athletic accomplishments, I’m even more proud of their academic achievements,” President Gómez said. “To have a student like Kayla Wilson earn a scholarship to play basketball at Division-I Saint Bonaventure proves they are among the best of the best on the court, in the classroom and in our community.”

“What a time to be a Caiman.”

AND THE LUCKY SDEM SURVEY WINNER IS...

Magdalena Kaczmarek! During the Spring 2019 semester, the Student Development and Enrollment Management Division at Hostos Community College conducted its Annual Student Satisfaction survey. The survey was sent via email to all students currently matriculated in classes. Students who completed the survey were automatically entered into a raffle, having a chance to win a laptop.

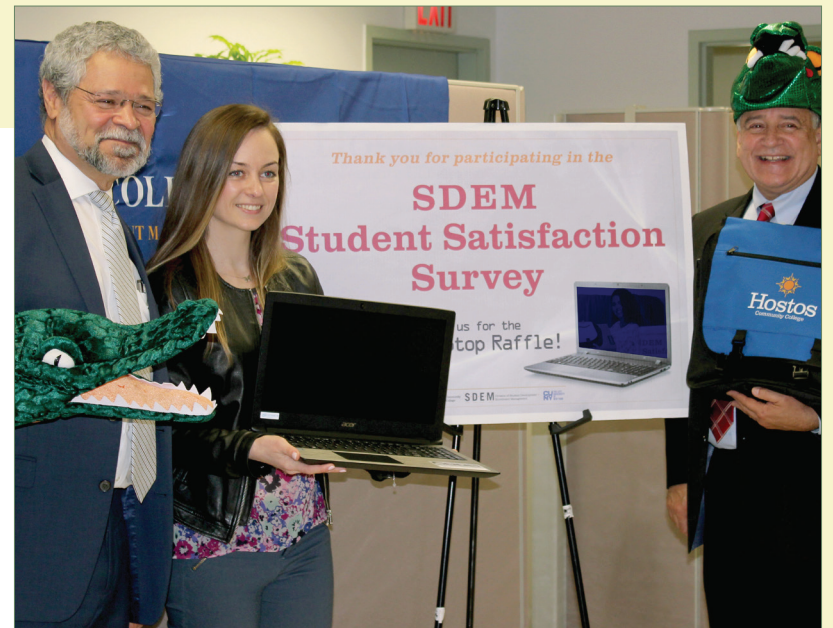
The lucky winner was announced Tuesday, May 14th, in front of the SGA counter in the C-Building. We are happy to congratulate Ms. Magdalena Kaczmarek as the lucky winner of the brand new Acer laptop.

Ms. Kaczmarek tells us: "Hostos Community College has been my second home since 2016. I am thrilled that I am about to graduate from such a prestigious Dental Hygiene program. After graduation this May and passing the National Board Exam I would like to begin working in order to get more experience and then further my education with a bachelors degree in Dental Hygiene."

The Student Satisfaction survey has provided SDEM with valuable information that will be used to enhance its programs and services for students. Thank you to all 1,306 students who participated and shared their experiences here at Hostos.

The next Student Satisfaction survey will be conducted in the Spring 2020 semester; stay tuned for email messages from the SDEM division!

Student input is important to our success and we look forward to learning more about you and understanding how we can best keep our programs up to date and successful.



Wheelchair B-Ball!

On Saturday August 24th Hostos/CUNY Wheelchair Basketball Team made its long-awaited debut with its first organized team practice at "The Swamp" In front of a fantastic turnout, the prospective CUNY student-athletes took part in shooting drills and 5-on-5 scrimmages, led by the team's head Hostos coach Ryan Martin.

"It's just been an awesome process to see what's possible for the prospective student-athletes in CUNY," Martin said. "We will start with practices and continue to farm out where our current students with disabilities want future programming. We have 25 campuses and over 4,000 students with mobility impairment. And, to be able to address the needs at various different campuses is going to be the challenge, but it is a great opportunity. It is a tremendous credit to CUNY's commitment to universal design."

Last May, the CUNY Athletic Conference announced the formation of a varsity wheelchair basketball team -- the first-ever of its kind on the Eastern seaboard. Until that point, the closest varsity collegiate program in the East had resided at Edinboro University in Western Pennsylvania. Additionally, Martin partnered with PER4MAX and U.S. Paralympics to donate 10 high-performance wheelchairs to the cause (worth up to \$50,000).

"It's hard to capture what a remarkable day this has been. We mapped this out as a blueprint, and to see it bear fruit today, is very exciting. It's hard to believe that this is really happening, but it is," said CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Inclusion Initiatives Christopher Rosa. "Our goal is to build a foundation for a sustainable high-level competitive inclusive athletics program, starting with wheelchair basketball. Today was an important first step of letting the New York City and greater Metropolitan area community of wheelchair athletes know that we are here and inclusive sports is open for business at CUNY. We are committed to recruiting the highest quality wheelchair student-athletes to follow their dreams at CUNY and to serve as a rallying port for our community of students with disabilities."

The goal of CUNY's Inclusive and Adaptive Sports platform is to engage student-athletes with disabilities in four sports—basketball, track and field, swimming and tennis—as a collegiate model for its University's campuses to adopt.

CORNER

STUDENT



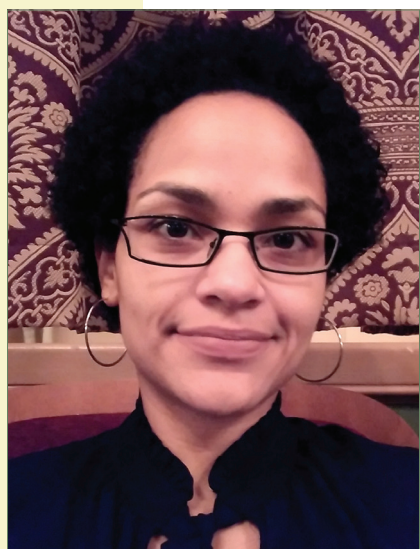
MARIA DIAZ AND CHEISON PULINARIO VEGA

From Troy L. Cogburn, Director of Transfer Admissions, Manhattan College, to our very own Mercedes Moscat and Theresa Hammonds of Hostos's Transfer Services:

"We continue to be very impressed with the students transferring from Hostos Community College, particularly those that have fulfilled their obligation to their associates degree curriculum," said Cogburn. "While we understand the financial reality of attending a private four-year college, Manhattan College is committed to making it as affordable as possible for everyone, particularly first-generation, underserved, and underrepresented students from our local community."

This spring, two Hostos students transferred into their Chemical Engineering program:

Maria Diaz (59 credits received in transfer) was awarded a \$20,000 per year Deans Transfer Award and received an additional \$12,000 per year institutional, state and federal grants. **Cheison Pulinario Vega** (56 credits received in transfer) was selected as a Transfer Presidential Scholarship recipient, being awarded \$22,000 annually. He also received an Community College Academic Excellence Award for an additional \$1,000 per year. Cheison received just under \$15,000 per year in additional institutional, federal, and state grants.



YANNA ALMONTE

VALEDICTORIAN GAL • GPA 4.0 • Major: Community Health

I was born in the Dominican Republic. My parents brought me to the US when I was 4 years old. After 9/11, we migrated back to DR. I lived in DR for 10 years and moved back to NY in 2015. While my parents taught me the value of hard work, they never went to college themselves, making me a first generation student. It took me a while to become a student after graduating High School because I started working when I was 17 years old. I got multiple promotions and earned a good salary in a short amount of time. I also gave little importance to getting a college degree. Then I became a mom. I realized I wasn't happy at my job and I needed to model hard work for my son, but also show him that higher education is just as important. Today, my five year old expresses himself like: "After I go to college, I will..." Not if he will go to college, but after he does. He already visualizes himself there.

I do too!

There are a few labels that I carry with me which include; being a Latina, woman, immigrant, single mom, first generation student usually come accompanied by hardship. I do not allow these labels to define my experience but they have an impact. This is why I created some strategies to maximize my performance. I'd like to share some of them with my fellow peers. Trust me, we are all struggling. Set a goal, plan your path towards that goal, push through the hardship, follow through to the best of your abilities, and magical things will happen. If I can do it, you can do it too!

How do you earn a 4.0 GPA? Here are some things that work for me:

SHOW INTEREST: Try to connect the class material with something in real life. Ask questions when there's anything you don't understand. See the professor during office hours or even after class to see what they recommend about getting a good grade in their class. They know best what they are looking for and can give extra tips and shortcuts on how to get an A.

TAKE NOTES: And review them! The professors give out important information during lectures. This information can also help you understand the material better.

SCHEDULE, SCHEDULE, AND SCHEDULE: I use google calendar and also a homework sheet. I update the sheet with 3 classes in advanced from each syllabus and check it daily to make sure I don't miss anything. Getting organized is super important.

LASTLY, CONNECT WITH PEERS YOU CAN TELL ARE DOING WELL IN CLASS AND ASK THEM HOW THEY ARE DOING IT. People have really good tips to share that might work for you. Remember, the more you practice anything—the better you will be at it. So keep trying even if it doesn't work at first.



Ecuador Panel

Admissions Advisor, Katherine Henry Sosa, and Student Success Coach, Graciano Matos, joined the Organizacion Juventud Ecuatoriana event held on April 18 at the Ecuadorian Consulate.

The event, which was moderated in Spanish, was created for the Ecuadorian community to learn about how to apply and access higher education.

A big thank you to Mr. Carlos Guevarra, Director of Educational Technology, Co-Director for the Center of Teaching and Learning who organized the event and extended an invitation to members of our SDEM team.

Question #13 Extended (Misconceptions of a Latina)

I handed in my application.

“Question #13 is incorrect” she said,

So, I checked, but it wasn’t,

It stated: Are you an American citizen?

Could I blame her?

I’m five feet tall with long midnight hair and dark eyes

Thick lips, wide hips and big thighs,

Bypass my Bachelor, 15 years of experience, my resume must be all lies.

She must have thought I was a:

Bean-frying

Burrito-making

Taco-selling

Tamale-eating

Poncho-wearing

Person.

Okay

But I am an American too

I am also

Catracha, Maya y Garifuna

La misa at Juan Batista,

La sinagoga, estilo Espanola, tan linda.

Los Christianos y los Judios

Los Mulatos y los Mestizo

Los Conversos y los Cryptos

From the ruins of Copan to la Isla de Roatan

Tegucigalpa, San Pedro and Tela Beach

Dancing Punta, my history, our speech

Puchica Voz! Can’t you see?

I may be American, but Honduras resides in these genes.

—Karina Guardiola-Lopez, *Coach, SSCU*

FEATURED STAFF

Karina Guardiola-Lopez, student success coach, is a writer, poet, actor and educator from New York City. She is the co-writer, marketer and actor of Live Big Girl, a poetic play that sold out at the National Black Theater, BAAD and The Tank Theater. Her works have been published in various magazines, anthologies and websites. She has also featured at various venues including: The NYC Poetry Festival, Bowery Poetry Club, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Q-Boro Lit Crawl, The Bronx Museum, Hostos Community College and many other locations. For more information please visit www.kglopez.com



As always, stay tuned for our next issue!

If you want to be featured in the next Gazette and/or are interested in contributing an Op-Ed, contact Elba Bonilla.