

# The S·D·E·M Gazette

CU  
NY

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT + ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT • Spring 2020

**O·V·P**  
Office of the  
Vice President  
SDEM Hostos Community College



## Welcome to the Spring 2020 Academic Semester, in this new Decade!

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to another great semester. We are all excited to have students back in our offices filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning.

In this issue of the Gazette we highlight the link between FAFSA and the Selective Service Act, the academic achievements of Hostos alumni, partnerships with high school counselors, and welcome new SDEM staff.

As we move forward this semester, we will be focusing on increasing our enrollment, first year initiatives, streamlined student communications, and access to student support services.

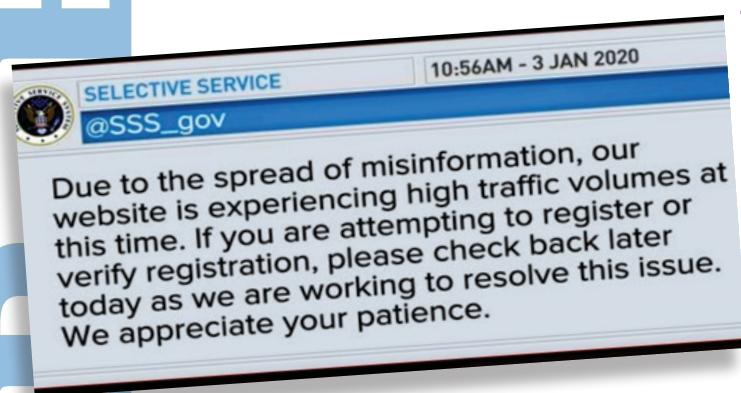
It is our mission to help every student feel welcomed, connected, and part of our Hostos family. I look forward to a successful semester.

Best Wishes,  
**Nathaniel Cruz**

*Vice President for Student Development & Enrollment Management*

## SELECTIVE SERVICE & THE FAFSA: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This year on January 1st, New Year's Day, we celebrated our introduction to a new decade, the Year 2020! However, within a matter of days, the U.S. experienced its first major crisis of the year, and rampant social media panic nearly shutdown the government—because the innanetz:



**THE KERFUFFLE** Prospective and current college students across the nation flooded social media platforms with a flurry of fears falsely suggesting that simply filing the FAFSA puts them at immediate risk of getting drafted into the military. More specifically, some claimed that by choosing “Register Me” on Question #22 of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA “tricks” students into signing up for military service.

**THE FACTS** It's the law! In addition, registration is required for FAFSA filers and non-FAFSA filers alike. Bear in mind that the Selective Service System is in place as a contingency database of potential troops. According to the Selective Service System's website, only the depletion of volunteer troops—including the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces—would warrant a draft reinstatement, which would have to be signed into legislation by Congress and the president.

- The first Selective Service Act was signed into law in 1917 and discontinued in 1920
- There have since been 3 additional acts signed into law of which 2 have been terminated or discontinued (Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 & Selective Service Act of 1948)
- 1973 marked the creation of all-volunteer armed forces; in 1980, the Military Selective Service Act re-established the Selective Service registration requirement.
- Persons assigned the gender of male at birth who are between the ages of 18-25 must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday
- Certain categories of non-US citizen males between 18-25 living in the United States must also register, particularly permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented immigrants (This can include foreign nationals who have entered the United States illegally, as well as those who entered legally but then remained after the expiration of their entry visa or parole documents.)

**THE PENALTIES** Eligible males who knowingly and willfully choose not to register with the Selective Service System will not only forfeit federal student aid eligibility but are also subject to conviction of a felony punishable by a fine up to \$250,000 or a prison term up to five years (or a combination of both).

In other words, students should REGISTER and let us help them pay for college. And if they are 26 or older and unknowingly failed to register, we can help them with that, too!

**Mr. Leslie King, Financial Aid Director @Hostos Community College**

## CORNER: *Where are they now?*

STUDENT

### ARAFATE IDOHO AND STEPHEN KENA

From: Troy L. Cogburn, Director of Transfer Admissions, Manhattan College

To: Our very own Mercedes Moscat and Theresa Hammonds of Hostos's Transfer Services:

*"Hostos's Maria Diaz and Cheison Pulinario Vega are continuing in the B.S. Chemical Engineering program this fall, and joining them this semester are two more HCC graduates, **Arafate Idohou** and **Stephen Kena**. Both Arafate and Stephen were selected as Transfer Presidential Scholarship Recipients for \$22,000 per year, and were each offered an additional \$3,000 annual Community College Academic Excellence Award. This fall, Manhattan College was also able to increase student employment options so both students are eligible for work-study of up to \$4,000 annually. In addition to those awards, Arafate and Stephen are still receiving just under \$10,000 annually in institutional, federal, and state grants, and additional opportunities for federal and state loans."*

*Kudos to Hostos Transfer Services as both Arafate and Stephen have credited their office with helping them figure out the different options available to them.*



## 4 Hostos Students are among the Kaplan Educational Foundation's 13th Cohort of Kaplan Leadership Scholars!

### Greetings,

On behalf of the board of directors and its dedicated selection committee, we are proud to announce our 13th cohort of the Kaplan Leadership Program. We are thrilled to welcome 21 new Scholars, our biggest cohort to date. As we look to the future of the Kaplan Educational Foundation (KEF), this marks an important moment of growth and an increased impact in the area of college transfer. We are proud to support the City University of New York's diverse community college student body by helping them recognize and navigate the many transfer paths to fulfill their highest potential regardless of financial barriers.

THE COHORT INCLUDES 2 students from Borough of Manhattan Community College; 6 students from Bronx Community College; 5 students from Kingsborough Community College; 2 students from LaGuardia Community College; 1 student from New York City College of Technology; 1 student from Stella and Charles Guttman Community College; and, we are proud to announce, four students from Hostos Community College:

**Mohamed Aden,  
Alex Essiamah,  
Antoine Hunter, and  
Kingsley Odae.**

Scholars receive individualized transfer admissions advisement, writing & math supplemental instruction, tutoring, leadership development instruction, campus visits throughout the nation, and financial support that covers admissions application fees, transportation costs, books, school supplies, and a wide range of cultural activities.

Sincerely,  
*Kaplan Educational Foundation*



# The S·D·E·M Gazette

## Toy Drive

Thanks to the continued support of the Hostos community, we had our best Winter Festival to date! The students, staff, and community demonstrated so much effort to make this event successful. The toy drive began at the bridge and in our offices over the course of 6 days in which we received toys from students, faculty, staff, and community organizations. The Health and Wellness office welcomed anyone to donate for this special event. Once all the toys were donated, ESP put together an afternoon of gift wrapping and holiday music. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, who participated and helped wrap more than 280 gifts!



## AUTUMN COUNSELOR BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, the Admissions & Recruitment office hosted its annual “Autumn Counselor Breakfast” in the multipurpose room.

The event hosted 50 New York City high school and community-based organization counselors from all five boroughs.

The program included a proficiency index presentation by Dr. Christine Mangino, Provost. Guests listened to a student panel discussion on navigating college life at Hostos. The highlight of the event was a panel discussion on the Senator Jose Peralta New York State DREAM Act. This panel included our Director of Financial Aid, Leslie King, Anastassiya Maximenko, CUNY Welcome Center, Paola Therasse, Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) and Zuleima Dominguez, Make the Road NY.

After the event, guests participated in a resource table fair where they interacted with various Hostos student support offices including ASAP, CUNY EDGE, SSCU, Financial Aid, College Discovery, and Food Studies academic program.



## FEATURED STAFF

### David Primak

Hostos Community College is pleased to announce the appointment of our new registrar, David Primak, who will be responsible for directing the operations of the Office of the Registrar.

Mr. Primak joins us with over 14 years of Registrar experience within the City University of New York, most recently at Queens College.

David started his career at Kingsborough Community College as the Resource25 Project Manager tasked with course scheduling and rooming. He then served as the Associate Registrar at John Jay College of Criminal Justice from 2006–2014, before moving on to his most recent position as Deputy Registrar at Queens College. In this capacity, he worked in and managed a variety of functional areas, devoting significant time in leveraging technology to improve the process of graduation audits, room and course scheduling, and grading. David also has extensive system management experience, as demonstrated by his expertise with CUNYfirst and the Google Suite for Education application.

David earned his MBA from the University of Phoenix and he received a BA in Economics at Brooklyn College. David has experience teaching as an adjunct for the Math and Computer Science Department and is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

Help us give a warm Hostos welcome to David! He can be reached at:

Location: D- 207

Phone: 718-518-4412



### Ricardo Garcia

Hostos is proud to welcome Ricardo Garcia, our new Veterans Coordinator. Ricardo is excited to work on behalf of the veteran population on this campus and is enthusiastic about the future expansion of The Hostos Office of Veterans Affairs (HOVA). While he is new to our college he has been a part of the CUNY family for many years. He began his CUNY journey at BMCC and left shortly after 9/11 to serve. Upon returning from one of his deployment he attended and graduated Cum Laude from John Jay College of Criminal Justice receiving his Bachelors in Political Science with two minors in Latin American Studies and History. Currently, Ricardo attends the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and anticipates graduating with an MPH in Public Health Administration and Management.

Ricardo has years of experience working with transitioning Veterans returning back to civilian life and entering academia. In addition to being a CUNY student, Ricardo also was a CUNY employee working for the Central Office of Student Affairs and the Central Office of Veterans Affairs. In those positions, he assumed many responsibilities that afforded him the opportunity to work with CUNY staff developing programs that benefited veterans throughout all of the campuses. In that time he established many professional relationships within CUNY that extended between the students, faculty, and employees throughout all of the college campuses.

Being of Puerto Rican descent, Ricardo's decision to enlist in the military came easily because he was raised in a military legacy family that has a long history of military service. After serving over 25 years in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard he retired. His military service included several CONUS duty stations. Ricardo's OCONUS service included Germany, Panama, Central/South America, and Iraq. Ricardo received honorable recognition from the Secretary of the Army, the Governor of New York and the Mayor's Office of New York for his actions as a first responder on 9/11. After retiring from the Army he continued serving the veteran community as an executive officer within The American Legion. In this capacity, he lobbies for policies that benefit veterans and is a watchdog ensuring compliance and observance of all veterans' policies. He works closely with elected officials at the city, state, and federal levels advocating on behalf of veterans on legislative issues. Aside from his Military background, he also worked and retired from The Smithsonian Institution after 22 years.

Ultimately his goal is to strengthen the already existing HOVA office and expand on its services and programs to better support the needs of our veteran and military student population. To do this he will need your support and assistance.

Help us give a warm Hostos welcome to Ricardo! He can be reached at:

Location: D-101

Email: RGarcia@hostos.cuny.edu

Phone: 718-319-7955

## Key Student Dates to Keep in Mind and Share:

- SDEM 12th Annual Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS)—If you want to be eligible for a FREE LAPTOP complete SSS by May.
- F20-21 FAFSA
  - If you want to have money on time to purchase your books complete process by July 1st.
  - If you want to work on campus (Federal Work Study) complete your process by March 1st.
  - If you want your tuition funded in time for Fall Registration meet the priority deadline of March 1st.
- Free Tax filing- Free Services with Single Stop USA in the Savoy building by 4/15 for student only.
- Last days to...
  - Drop for 50% tuition refund- Sunday, February 9th
  - Drop for 25% tuition refund- Sunday, February 16th
  - To file for graduation- Monday, February 17th

## SDEM Welcomes You! Look who joined our SDEM family!

### Admissions

**Yamilka Placencia Vargas**  
Admissions Advisor

**Marcus Clindinin**  
Admissions Advisor

### Athletics

**Erik Smiles**  
Director

### ARC

**Ricardo Garcia**  
Veterans Coordinator

### Counseling

**Isalia Crespo**  
Counselor

### CUNY EDGE

**Magdalena Diaz**  
New Advisor

### Financial Aid

**Nicholas Valente**  
Financial Aid Specialist, ASAP

**Jimmy Ng**  
Financial Aid Advisor/Direct Loan Assistant

**Johnpierre Ricketts**  
Financial Aid Advisor, CD

### Health and Wellness

**Nyomi Miranda-Flores**  
Empowering Student Parent Coordinator

**Christeen Francis**  
Family Empowerment Program Manager

### Office of the Registrar

**David Primak**  
Director

### OVP

**Ana Robles-Jimenez**  
Administrative Appeals Coordinator

**Marsha Milan-Bethel**  
Student Services Specialist

### Student Success Coaching Unit

**Dajanee Cochran**  
Student Success Junior Coach

**Kerryanne Bell**  
Student Success Junior Coach

**Jennifer Reynoso**  
Student Success Junior Coach

**Dominique Winstead**  
Student Success Junior Coach

**Edwin Diaz**  
Student Success Foundation Coach

**Theudys Mejia**  
Student Success Foundation Coach

**Erik Rinklin**  
Student Success Coach

## The New Decade Social

After all the hard work it's time to socialize!



**Fun Fact:** did you know our D-J for the afternoon is now a spring-semester enrollee at Hostos?



As always, stay tuned for our next issue!