

The S·D·E·M Gazette



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT + ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT • Spring Edition



A note to staff from the Interim VP

With Spring Semester at a close we are all excited to begin the transition to in-person student services this summer, anticipating the return of students filling our offices once again with energy and enthusiasm for learning this upcoming fall. In upcoming months, we will be focusing on increasing our enrollment for in-person learning and access to student support services both virtually and in-person. It is our mission to help every student feel welcomed, connected, and part of our Hostos family.

I want to take this moment to thank you all for your hard work and commitment this year. This issue is a testament to the important work the division does in serving our students.

Enjoy your summer!

Best Wishes, **Esther Rodríguez-Chardavoyne**
Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance
Interim Vice President for Student Development & Enrollment Management

A REGISTRAR'S EYE VIEW: CLASS MODALITIES

As we look ahead to the start of our Fall 2021 semester—and consider the easing of significant pandemic restrictions and growing vaccination rates in our state—we have an opportunity to plan for a more enhanced in-person schedule of classes. The Office of the Registrar has worked diligently with our academic departments and OAA to increase the number of in-person and hybrid classes being offered in the coming Fall 2021 term. The majority of the conversion has been from fully online to hybrid when we began the process in early May. The final date for submitting changes to the schedule of classes was June 23, after which the only course changes will be the adding of sections or dropping sections due to insufficient enrollment. After that date, no further changes in modality of existing sections were made.

Our primary concern is the impact of the uncertainty about course modality on student enrollment decisions and the changes made to the schedule of classes after students have enrolled. There is also the issue of instructors needing time to prepare for the fall term and not knowing for sure how they will deliver their courses. To mitigate these concerns for our students, various staff members from SDEM have been conducting direct outreach via phone, text, email and snail mail. We are confident that all affected students have been notified of the changes and we will continue to do so as we go forward.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to develop our Fall 2021 schedule of classes based on the changing conditions in our communities. I am encouraged that the Fall 2021 semester will be a great one for all of us!

Athletics plans for the fall



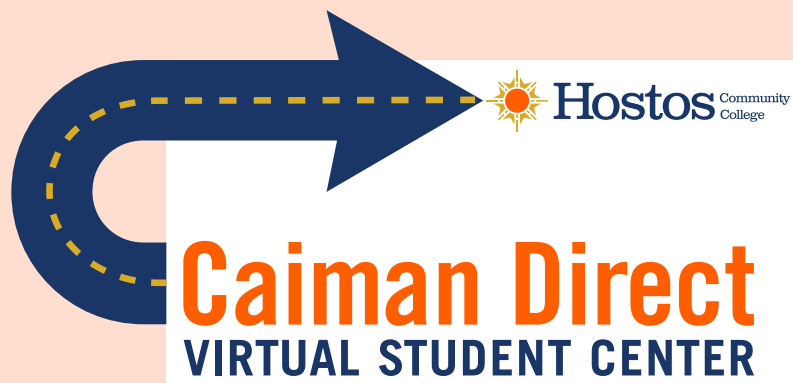
As the Fall semester approaches the Department of Athletics is excited to announce many new recreation initiatives and equipment as well as the return of intercollegiate athletic competition. September will mark the first return in over a year of Caiman sports as the Women's Volleyball team will take the court as they look to capture the CUNYAC championship. In November, our defending CUNYAC and Region XV championship Men's and Women's Basketball teams will return to competition as they look to defend their titles. Also, Coed Esports is back for their second season as a varsity sport as the Caimans look to build on their success as a first-year program and will be competing in over a dozen game titles.

We are also happy to announce that both the Fitness Center and Swimming Pool will both be open for recreation for the start of the Fall 2021 semester with many new changes. In the swimming pool we welcome to our staff Michael Loeffler who is our new Aquatics Coordinator. Mr. Loeffler will be over seeing recreational swim hours as well as organizing lifeguard training and swimming programs for all student, faculty and staff who are looking forward to taking a swim. Meanwhile our fitness center has seen the purchase of new treadmills, ellipticals, step machines, stair climbers, row machines, upright bikes and recumbent bikes as well as a new core fitness, stretching and plyometric area in the rear of the aerobic room. Our weight room has also seen the addition of five new pieces of equipment plus a new kettle bell rack.

Please make sure to check our website (www.hostosathletics.com) and social media (@hostosathletics) for recreation hours and updates. If you have any questions regarding recreation or if you are a student who is interested in trying out for one of our varsity teams please feel free to contact us at athletics@hostos.cuny.edu.

The S·D·E·M Gazette

IN THE KNOW:



During the spring 2021 semester, SDEM launched the Caiman Direct virtual student center, to service continuing students. Caiman Direct is committed to offering centralized support services to students navigating the many facets of campus life while providing the tools necessary to continue and complete their educational journey.

Caiman Direct streamlines student services, making it easier for students to complete the processes required to maintain their active student status. The virtual office has implemented a new student-centered business model designed to eliminate students visiting or calling multiple offices. Caiman Direct will also improve transmission and receipt of concise messages that are accurate, timely

and helpful to students. Those seeking information from the following offices can visit Caiman Direct for immediate assistance.

- Financial Aid
- Registrars
- Health and Wellness
- Scholarships and grants
- Student Life

Live support is available through the [Caiman Direct](#) page, which contains updated hours with appropriate zoom and additional links. For more information, contact Marsha Milan-Bethel, Student Services Specialist at (718) 664-2765 or via email at mmilanbethel@hostos.cuny.edu.

Student Corner: SSCU Graduates



Antionette Fleming graduated from Hostos' License Practical Nursing (LPN) certificate program this spring and is one step closer toward her goal of someday training the nurses of tomorrow.

"I want to help people, but what drew me to nursing was the education behind it," she explained.

Determined to make her dream a reality, she researched local LPN programs and was ultimately drawn to the Hostos Allied Health department's competitive program offerings. Antionette described her experience at Hostos as "absolutely amazing," and said she appreciates how encouraging everyone, especially in her program, has been. "Everybody is there helping. They really work in all the dimensions of wellness to make sure that you succeed," she shared.

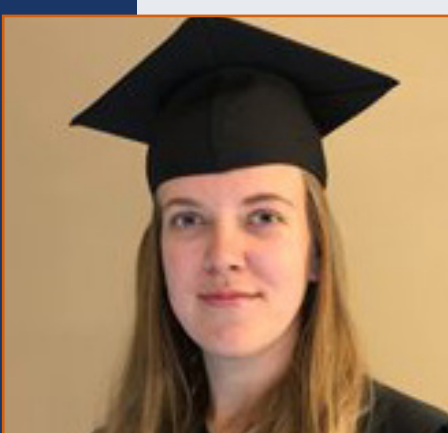
Antionette was the LPN Class President and is the third person in her family to graduate from the College; two of her sisters are Hostos graduates. She looks forward to taking her State Board exam this summer and returning to enroll in the College's RN program next spring.

Nursing student **Rachel Yepes** moved from Stamford, Connecticut, to New York City in search of a fresh start when she was 19 years old. Having previously served as a volunteer firefighter and taken EMT classes, Rachel enrolled in the Nursing program (RN) at Hostos, where she found more than an education—she found community and a renewed passion for a healthcare career.

Although she admits she felt overwhelmed and battled self-doubt at times, she was able to push through with the ongoing support of her advisors, professors, and especially her classmates, who have been a constant source of inspiration for her.

"The student body at Hostos is unlike anything else I've seen, especially in the nursing program," she said. "The students were so driven and motivated. A lot of my peers, I admire them so much, because they juggle families, they juggle work; none of us really get sleep, just for the goal."

Looking ahead, Rachel, RN Class President will take her State Board exam this summer and go on to pursue her B.S.N. at Hunter College. She hopes to someday work in the ICU or emergency unit of a hospital.



Taisiia Smekalenkova graduated from Hostos Community College's Digital Design and Animation Degree Program in June 2021 and is the class Salutatorian. As an immigrant from the Ukraine and a mother, she has worked hard to achieve her dream of becoming a designer and animator. Ms. Smekalenkova is currently working on an animation project in her Media Design and 2D Animation class at Hostos that documents the daily life of African children, particularly the Albinos and Talibe, who struggle to survive life on the streets. After graduating from Hostos, she plans to work for a couple years before pursuing her Bachelor's degree.

The S·D·E·M Gazette

And the Lucky SDEM Survey Winner Is...



STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

During the Spring 2021 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 matriculated in classes this Spring semester. Students who completed the survey were automatically entered into a raffle, having a chance to win a laptop. The lucky winner was announced Wednesday, May 26, in the Vice President of SDEM suite (Savoy, B-Building). We are happy to congratulate Ms. Nafissatou Bande Yaogo as the lucky winner of the brand new ASUS laptop. Ms. Yaogo tells us:

"I am from Burkina Faso and moved to the USA five years ago. This is my very first year of college in this country, my first semester at Hostos. Once I first came to this country my very first interest was continuing my education. I applied for CUNY and got accepted by several colleges, among them Hostos Community College- which I picked without hesitation. I was first skeptical about how this first semester was going to work because courses were going to be dispensed in a language that I am still learning, and I am majoring in nursing which is different from my previous major from my country. However, with the advice, recommendations and feedback of my instructors and tutors, I had a great and successful semester. On top of that, I received the call saying that I was the lucky winner. I was astounded and it took me a moment to believe it. This prize along with my grades ... makes me more motivated and excited to continue my journey on becoming a nurse. I am grateful to have Hostos be part of that journey and making the way easier for me. Thank you."

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 1,801 students who participated and shared their experiences here at Hostos. The next Student Satisfaction survey will be conducted in the Spring 2022 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.

Scholarship Awards Recipients



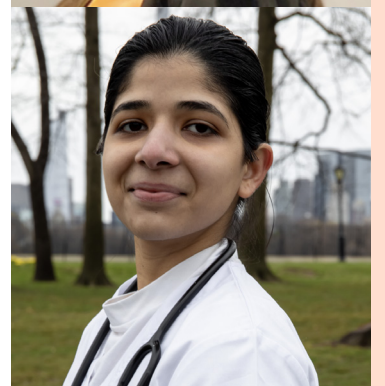
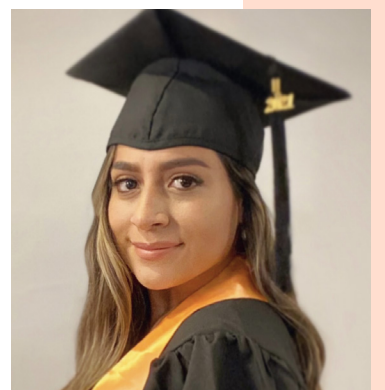
THE KAPLAN FOUNDATION

The Kaplan Educational Foundation seeks to eliminate barriers to education for overlooked and underserved students and develop them as leaders for the American workforce and their communities. This year, the Kaplan Education Foundation selected three Hostos students for the Kaplan Leadership Program—Rosina Asiamah, Boinzemwende Jarmila Roxane Ouango, and Oumou Traore.

Oumou Dili Traore graduated high school in Mali in 2018. Soon after she came to the U.S. with an interest to study Civil engineering. She began taking English classes at CUNY in the Heights and then enrolled at Hostos Community College. She became member of the Kaplan Leadership program in which provided her guidance on transfer processes and financial support for schools that she claimed once "were out of my reach." Traore is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental engineering at Cornell University this coming Fall. She aims to become an environmental civil engineer with an interest in developing green energy strategies for developing African nations. Traore was a member of CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), CUNY Research Scholar Program (CRSP), a Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship 2021 semifinalist, and has been accepted to Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory 2021 Summer Internship Program. Both she and Ouango are also Hostos Engineering Academic (HEAT) scholars, and all three students are members of the Student Leadership Academy (SLA) at Hostos.

Boinzemwende Jarmila Roxane Ouango developed a love for engineering in high school and aspires to become a lead researcher in developing sustainable computer hardware devices with improved energy efficiency. Ouango will serve as a summer intern at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY. Ms. Ouango's field of research will be Engineering Technology. Moreover, she believes in the power of mentorship and aims to establish after school programs to help middle school students from diverse backgrounds see themselves as potential future engineers. She is a member of the Hostos Leadership academy, an ambassador to CUNY Black Male Initiative (BMI), and math peer leader at the College.

Born and raised in a remote area of Ghana, **Rosina Asiamah** grew up seeing how a lack of investment in developing the infrastructure in her village led to an increased mortality rate for vulnerable populations. She currently works full-time as a live-in home health aide and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Looking ahead, she plans to pursue a career in the medical field after completing her associate degree and wants to eventually return home to open clinics in West Africa to increase local access to quality medical care. Asiamah said the Kaplan Education Foundation will aid her in taking a "giant step" closer to her dream of becoming a nurse.



THE NASRY MICHELEN FOUNDATION

The Nasry Michelen Scholarship is a result of grant money awarded by the Nasry Michelen Foundation. Each year, the scholarship will be used to award graduating students in an Allied Health Profession or Public Health Administration program who demonstrate academic excellence and intend to continue their education at a four-year institution. Only graduating students with a minimum GPA of 3.5 qualify for this scholarship award

RECIPIENTS: **Silvia Prado Carpio** and **Fatima Choudhry**

The S·D·E·M Gazette

SDEM EVENTS GONE VIRAL



THE CARLOS L. GONZÁLEZ COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center's aim is always to cast a wide net of aid to the student body of Hostos Community College. Along with our individual support services, this year, the counseling center developed an array of group events to provide support, increase engagement, and address the spoken and unspoken needs of the student community. While some of these initiatives are designed to provide a safe space for expression and reflection in a more traditional mental health setting (safe space

groups), others were created with an emphasis on having fun. Our Music Is Virtual Happy Hour fostered community, provided self-care and stress reduction through music and laughter with especially during our Name that Tune and Students vs Staff Family Feud.

In addition, community events such as Candid Conversations, Own Your Power, included panel discussions on relevant social topics have been highly successful this year in engaging students and staff alike to explore shared personal and social issues. Our community events addressed topics of racism, changes in masculinity and sexual assault awareness. Lastly, the center has also afforded a series of virtual self-care events through the Care for You series (Yoga, Guided Meditation, and Sound Bath), presenting virtual access to effective methods of stress reduction, self-care, and mental wellness.

These events are accessible through links on our Counseling Center calendar, and many of these events will continue into the Fall semester. If you have any questions or are interested in participating in any of our services, please email infocounseling@hostos.cuny.edu to set up a session with a counselor or request a copy of our calendar with the links our upcoming events. Also, be sure to follow on Instagram @Hostoscounseling, where one can find helpful resources and up-to-date information about all our events.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The COVID19 Pandemic has brought forth many changes in our lives. Working and studying remotely, in addition to conducting many daily interactions via telephone and video conferencing has led to increased anxiety, isolation and technology fatigue. This has had a negative impact on student engagement and morale. Alleviating the mental and physical effects of isolated technology bombardment, has become a priority of the Wellness Office and it is to this end that our Spring 2021 programming was designed. It has played an important role in enabling the office to engage students who would have otherwise not contacted us voluntarily. Never the less, once contact was made it gave us an opportunity to check in with students and offer additional support when necessary. Wellness Office programming provided students with much needed down time and fun opportunities to engage with others for which they were often grateful.

Spring 2021 Wellness Office programming included regularly scheduled mindfulness activities, wellness workshops, and stress reduction games. Mindfulness activities were conducted in view of their countless health benefits, ease of lifestyle incorporation and uncomplicated nature. Workshops were provided to educate on prevention and understanding of stress & anxiety and to assist students with making their time spent utilizing technology more productive. Research has also proven that one of the best ways to alleviate stress and improve mental health is to laugh and have fun. It is in this vein that Wellness Office Virtual Stress Reduction Games were created. The games also enhance academic performance through providing increased cognition skills in the areas of memory, creativity, spatial intelligence, and visual motor integration skills, as well as improved concentration, and communication skills. Throughout the semester students participated in 5 different game offerings, winning a grand total of 99 Amazon gift card prizes. We would like to thank all student participants and staff & faculty collaborators for their part in making Spring 2021 Wellness Office activities a success.



IN THE KNOW:

Great news!!! We are winning the battle against COVID-19. Rates of positivity rates, hospitalizations and death related to COVID-19 have dropped significantly. We can credit science and ourselves for following CDC safety guidelines. As we move into the summer to enjoy our new freedoms, spend time with loved ones, and travel please continue to do your part to help eradicate COVID-19. Simple ways to stay safe.

- ✓ Wear masks indoors and outdoors in crowded areas
- ✓ Wash hands
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Get vaccinated

Here are some helpful resources about the COVID vaccines.

New York City's Vaccine Finder

The Center for Disease Control's "Key Things to Know"

#VaxUpCUNY

Helpful resources for students.

Surviving COVID-19: a #RealCollege Student Guide

COVID-19 College Support page

New York resources for students



Stay tuned for our next issue in the fall!

Do you have a recommendation for SDEM's Unsung Hero of 2021?*
If so, email ebonilla@hostos.cuny.edu your nominations by October.
A committee will then review and select the SDEM Unsung Hero of 2021.

***nominations remain anonymous**